









A

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
WEST INDIA ISLANDS,  
TOGETHER WITH  
GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS  
OF THE  
BERMUDAS, BAY ISLANDS, AND BELIZE,  
AND THE  
GUAYANA COLONIES.

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# CONTENTS.

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WEST INDIES :

Geography—Geology—Climate—Botany—Zoology—Aborigines and present Population—Era of Prosperity—Industrial Pursuits—Political Arrangement, etc. ....	Page 7-16
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

## SANTO DOMINGO :

Geography—Geology—Climate—Products—History. <i>Empire of Hayti</i> —Agriculture—Commerce—Population—Government—Faustin I. and his Court—Churches and Schools—Port-au-Prince—Cape Haytien—Recent History, etc. <i>The Dominican Republic</i> —Provinces and Population—Industry—Exports and Imports—Government—Finances—Armed Force—Education, etc.—Santo Domingo City—Porto Plata—Recent History .....	16-25
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

## SPANISH ISLANDS :

Cuba—Geography and Geology—Climate and Products—Extent, Population, etc.—Jurisdictions—Adjacent Islands (note)—Productive Industry, Agriculture, and Cattle Breeding—Manufactures—Commerce—Railroads—Government—Public Finances—Armed Forces—Education, Religion—Habana—Matanzas—Puerto Principe—Santiago, etc.—History. Porto Rico—Geography, etc.—Departments, Population, etc.—Resources, Industry, etc.—Government—Towns—Historical Account, etc. ....	25-35
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

## BRITISH ISLANDS :

Extent and General Statistics—the Bahama Islands—Turk's Island—Jamaica—the Caymans—Trinidad—Tobago—Grenada—St. Vincent—St. Lucia—Barbadoes—Dominica—Montserrat—Antigua—St. Christopher—Barbuda—Anguilla—Virgin Islands, etc.....	35-45
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

## FRENCH ISLANDS :

Guadaloupe Government—Guadaloupe—Marie-Galante—Desirade—Les Saintes—St. Martin. Martinique Government, etc.....	45-48
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

## DUTCH ISLANDS :

General Statistics—Curaçoa—Bonaire—Aruba—Saba—St. Eustatius—St. Martin, etc. .	49-51
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

## DANISH ISLANDS :

Extent and Population.—St. Thomas—Santa Cruz—St. John, etc.....	51-53
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-------

## SWEDISH ISLAND :

St. Bartholomew .....	54
-----------------------	----

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE WEST INDIES .....

54

## BERMUDA OR SOMERS' ISLANDS :

Geography—Climate, Soil, and Products—Parishes—Area and Population—Industry—Government, Education, etc.—Public Works—Towns—History ..... 55-58

## BELIZE OR BRITISH HONDURAS :

General Description—Climate, Soil, Products, etc.—Population and Industry—Government—Belize—History, etc..... 58-61

## BAY ISLANDS :

Roatan, Bonaca, Utila, Barbarat, Helene, and Morat—History, etc..... 61-64

## GUAYANA COLONIES :

General Description. *British Guayana*—Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice. *Dutch Guayana*—Surinam. *French Guayana*—Cayenne—Industry, Population, Government, History, etc..... 65-68

# INDEX TO PLACES.

Page	Page	Page			
Abaco Island .....	36	Cape Haytien.....	21	Grandbourg .....	46
Aguadilla.....	33	Cape Tiburon .....	16	Grand Bahama Island	36
Ambergris Key.....	59	Cardenas .....	27	Grande-Terre.....	45
Andros Island .....	36	Caroni River.....	38	Grenada Island .....	35, 39
Anegada Island.....	44	Castries .....	41	Grenadines .....	39
Anguilla Island.....	35, 44	Cat Island.....	36	Green Cayo .....	36
Anguillita Island .....	44	Cayenne Island.....	63	Greenville Bay .....	40
Anatto .....	37	Caymans Island.....	35, 37	Greater Antilles.....	7
Anse-Galet .....	46	Caymanbrac .....	37	Gros Montagne.....	45
Antigua Island .....	35, 43	Cayo Cocos.....	27	Guadaloupe Island....	45
Antonio .....	37	Cayo Guajaba .....	27	Guana .....	44
Arecibo .....	33	Cayo Romano .....	27	Guanabacoa.....	27
Artibonite River.....	17	Cayo Sal .....	36	Guantanamo .....	27
Aruba Island .....	49, 50	Charlestown .....	44	Guayamo.....	33-34
Aves or Bird Islands..	50	Charlotte-Amalia.....	51	Guayana .....	65
Azua .....	22-24	Charlotte-Town .....	42	Guayana, Brazilian....	65
Azuey Lake .....	17	Christiansborg .....	53	Guayana, British .....	66, 67
Bahama Islands .....	35, 36	Christianstadt .....	53	Guayana, Dutch .....	67
Bahia Honda .....	27	Cibao Mountains .....	16	Guayana, French .....	68
Bani .....	24	Cienfuegos .....	26, 31	Guayana, Venezuelan	65
Baraçoa .....	27, 32	Crooked Island .....	36	Guayanilla .....	34
Barbadoes Island .....	35, 41	Cuba .....	25	Güines .....	27, 32
Barbuda Island .....	35, 44	Culebra .....	35	Gustavia .....	54
Basse-Terre.....	44, 45	Curaçoa .....	49	Habana .....	27-31
Batavia .....	67	Curaçoa Chica .....	50	Hamilton.....	57
Bay Islands .....	61	Demerara .....	65, 66	Harbor Island .....	36
Bayaguana .....	24	Desirade or Deseada		Hayti, Empire of.....	19
Bayamo .....	27, 32	Island .....	46	Helene Island .....	61
Bejucal.....	27, 32	Deux Mamelles .....	45	Heneague Island .....	36
Belize.....	58-61	Dog Island .....	44	Higuey .....	24
Berbice.....	65, 66	Dominica Island .....	35-42	Holguin .....	27, 32
Bermuda Islands .....	55-58	Dominican Republic ..	22	Humacao .....	33
Bieque Island.....	35	Egmont Harbor.....	40	Inagua Islands .....	36
Bimini Islands .....	36	Eleuthera Island .....	36	Isla de Pinos .....	26
Black River .....	37	English Harbor.....	43	Jamaica Island .....	35, 36
Bonaca Island .....	62	Enriquillo Lake.....	17	Jaruco .....	27, 32
Boya .....	24	Essequibo .....	65, 66	Jews' Town .....	67
Bridgetown .....	42	Exuma Islands .....	36	Jiguani.....	27
Cabes-Terres .....	45	Fredenburg .....	67	Jos Van Dyke's Island	44
Cabo Roxo .....	34	Gonaïves .....	21	Kingston .....	37
Caguas .....	33	Georgetown.....	38, 39, 40, 66	Kingstown .....	40
Caicos Islands.....	36	Goyaves River.....	46	Laborie .....	41
Calliagua.....	40				
Camanas Island .....	44				

## INDEX TO PLACES.

	Page		Page		Page
La Carenage.....	54	Pidgeon Island .....	41	Salinas.....	34
Lamentin River.....	46	Pinar del Rio .....	27	Samana.....	16
Lesser Antilles .....	7	Pinos, Isla de.....	27	San Antonio.....	27, 32
Les Carmes.....	46	Piton de Bouillante ...	45	San Cristobal .....	24, 27
Les Saintes Islands...	46	Plymouth .....	43	San Juan de Maguana.	24
Lezarde River.....	46	Point-a-Pitre.....	46	San Nicolas.....	21
Long Island .....	36	Ponce .....	33	San Salvador Island...	36
Lucayos Islands .....	7	Port-au-Prince .....	20	Santa Anna Harbor...	49
Magdenburg .....	67	Port Maria .....	37	Santa Cruz Island ....	51, 52
Mahault Bay .....	46	Port Morant.....	37	Santa Cruz del Seybo .....	22, 24
Manati.....	34	Porto Plata.....	24	Santiago.....	22, 24
Manzanillo.....	27, 32	Porto Rico Island.....	33	Santiago de Cuba.....	27, 32
Marie-Galante .....	45, 46	Porto Rico City .....	34	Santo Domingo Island.	16
Mariel.....	27	Portsmouth .....	42	Santo Domingo City...	22, 23
Martinique Island....	48	Port Souffrière.....	41	Santo Espíritu .....	27, 32
Matanzas .....	27, 32	Princetown .....	40	Savanna la Mar .....	37
Mayagues .....	33	Prince Rupert's Bay...	42	Scarboro' .....	39
Monte Christi.....	16	Puerto d'Espana.....	39	Seybo .....	24
Monte Plata .....	24	Puerto Principe.....	27, 32	Sheckerly Mountain...	43
Mont Pelée .....	43	Punta Grande .....	61	Sierra del Cobre .....	26
Montserrat Island....	35, 42	Ragged Islands.....	36	Sinnamary .....	68
Morat .....	61	Remedios .....	27, 32	Souffrière .....	45
Morne Diablotin .....	42	Roatan Island .....	62	Spanish Islands .....	25
Moule .....	46	Rosario.....	27, 32	Spanish Town .....	37
Mount Hillaby .....	41	Roseau .....	42	Speight's Town .....	42
Mount Misery.....	43	Rum Cayo.....	36	Surinam .....	65, 67
Nassau .....	36	Saba Island .....	49, 50	Tobago Island .....	35, 39
Nevis .....	35, 44	Saguerilla.....	34	Tortola Island .....	44, 45
New Amsterdam .....	66, 67	Sagua.....	27	Tortuga Island.....	16
New Providence .....	36	St. Anne .....	46	Trinidad Island .....	35, 38
Neybo .....	24	St. Bartholomew Island	54	Trinidad de Cuba.....	27, 32
Nichar.....	44	Saintes, Lcs.....	45, 46	Tunas .....	27
Nisao River .....	17	St. Christopher Island	35, 43	Turk's Island.....	35
Nuevitas.....	27, 32	St. Eustatius .....	49, 50	Utila Island.....	61
Oistin's River .....	42	St. George's.....	57	Vega Real.....	16
Orange Town.....	68	St. Georgetown .....	40	Vieux-Fort.....	41
Oropuche.....	38	St. German .....	33	Villa-Clara .....	27, 32
Ortoire .....	38	St. James' .....	42	Virgin Gorda Island...	44
Oyapok .....	68	St. John Island .....	51, 53	Virgin Islands .....	35, 44
Ozama River .....	17	St. John .....	43	Watling Island .....	36
Paramaribo .....	67	St. Louis .....	46	Wilhelmsburg .....	67
Patillas.....	34	St. Lucia Island .....	35, 41	Wilhelmstadt .....	49
Penniston Island.....	44	St. Martin Island .....	45, 47, 49, 51	Yacki River .....	17
Penuelas .....	34	St. Pierre .....	48		
		St. Thomas Island.....	51		
		St. Vincent Island.....	35, 40		

## THE WEST INDIES.

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THE WEST INDIES consist of an archipelago of numerous large and small islands, lying in the wide interval of sea between the south coast of North America and the north coast of South America. Their rich and varied products, the high state of their cultivation, and the very singular forms of society existing in them, have rendered them in modern times peculiarly interesting.

**ASTRONOMICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.**—These islands extend in a species of curved line, first east and then south, beginning near the southern part of the United States and terminating at the north-east corner of the Spanish Main, near the mouth of the Orinoco River. On the east and north they are bounded by the Atlantic Ocean; on the south by the Caribbean Sea, and on the west by the wide expanse of the Mexican Gulf, which in that direction interposes between them and the continent. They are situated between the fifty-ninth and eighty-fifth degrees of longitude west from Greenwich, and between the parallels of ten and twenty-eight of north latitude.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION.**—Geographers have distinguished these islands into three arbitrary groups, viz., the Lucayos or Bahama Islands, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles or Caribbean Islands.

The Lucayos or Bahama Islands consist of fourteen principal and an infinite number of smaller islands and cayos, extending in line off the coast of Florida to the island of San Domingo or Hayti, a distance of about 750 miles. These are chiefly of coral formation—low, flat, and scantily covered with soil, and most of them uninhabited. Their climate is mild and agreeable, free alike from the scorching heats of the tropics and the low grades of temperature incident to more northern regions.

The Greater Antilles, extending from the Gulf of Mexico eastward toward the Atlantic Ocean, consist of the large and fine islands of Cuba, Santo Domingo or Hayti, Porto Rico, and Jamaica, the position of which is farther west than either the Bahama or the Caribbean Islands.

The Lesser Antilles or Caribbean Islands, so called from the Caribs or people inhabiting them when first discovered by the Spaniards, form a long chain extending in a curved line from Porto Rico to the Gulf of

Paria. These are usually called the Windward Islands. A smaller and more scattered group, ranging along the coast of Venezuela, belonging also to this section, is contradistinguished as the Leeward Islands. English writers, however, generally apply the latter name to the more northerly part of the first group, extending from Dominica northward to the Virgin Islands, restricting the appellation of Windward Islands to those between Dominica and the island of Trinidad.

Mountains of considerable elevation diversify most of these islands, causing them to resemble the elevated remains of a portion of the continent which some convulsion of nature has overwhelmed. Generally speaking, their interior is composed of a range or group sometimes of little more than a single mountain, the slopes of which and the plain at the base constitute the island. The most elevated peaks of the Greater Antilles exceed 8,000 feet above the sea-level, while the higher summits in the Caribbean Islands range in elevation from 3,000 to 4,000 feet. Most of these eminences have evidently been the seat of volcanic action, but, with the exception of the Souffrière of Guadalupe, which still exhibits some perturbations, action seems to have ceased in all, or at least is now dormant if not altogether expended. Numerous streams descend from these heights which, though they do not attain to the magnitude of rivers, yet serve to irrigate the fine plains and valleys which they traverse, and form one main cause of the fertility by which distinguished.

GEOLOGY, ETC.—The Bahama Islands, as far as known, are composed of limestone rock, which in many places display magnificent caves. In Cuba the lower regions are composed of secondary formations, through which the rocks of the primary era rise in masses of greater or lesser extent. The Copper Mountains seem to be chiefly formed of mica slate, but in the hills toward the west, pure limestone and argillaceous sandstone are the predominating developments. The Blue Mountain range of Jamaica is composed of transition rocks, as graywacke, associated with trap rocks. Resting on these, at a lower and lower level, are red sandstone and conglomerate, white marl and limestone, in some places intermingled with traps and porphyries. The flat country on the south coast of the island is alluvial and diluvial. An extinct volcano exists at Black Hill.

The Caribbean Islands, geognostically considered, form two groups: an eastern or exterior, of Neptunian formation, and a western or interior, of volcanic formation. The volcanic islands appear to stand in immediate connection with the primitive ranges of Caracas. This range of volcanic islands extends onward in a curved direction, and terminates in a new primitive chain at that point where the range has again assumed

the same direction as the Silla of Caracas. The Blue Mountains of Jamaica, the granite mountains in the southern part of Hayti and in Porto Rico, run parallel with the Silla, and they, as appears on inspecting the map, are equally a continuation of the volcanic series of the smaller Antilles, as these are of the Silla. None of these volcanoes are very lofty, the highest scarcely attaining an elevation of 6,000 feet above the level of the sea. The volcanic islands are Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, and St. Eustatia. The Neptunian islands, which are low and principally composed of limestone, are Tobago, Barbadoes, Marie-Galante, Grande-Terre, Deseada, Antigua, Barbuda, St. Bartholomew, and St. Martin's. The only island of this group of which a detailed account has been published is Antigua. It contains besides the characteristic Neptunian rocks, also formations of volcanic origin, and hence may be considered as the connecting link between the Neptunian and volcanic islands respectively. The whole north-eastern part of the island is composed of a yellowish-white earthy, nearly friable, limestone, which in its upper strata contains helices and bulimas, but in the lower great abundance of cerithiæ, principally inclosed in a silicious bed of a dark color, which is subordinate to the limestone. It appears to belong to the tertiary era, and forms hills from 300 to 400 feet in height. The island is crossed from north-west to south-east by a conglomerate which, in a clayey basis, contains many crystals of felspar, abundance of green earth, probably disintegrated augite, and masses of basalt, also of amygdaloidal dolerite or greenstone, lava, hornstone, with impressions of corals and numerous pieces of petrified wood, principally palms and other tropical trees. Trees of the same kind also occur in the silicious beds in the limestone. The rocks of this conglomerate are generally steep toward the south-west, and gently inclined toward the north-east. The limestone evidently rests on this conglomerate. To this follows in the south-western part of the island a doleritic basalt, which forms the greatest heights. The separation of these rocks is accurately in the direction of the volcanic islands, that is, from north-west to south-east. Hence the island of Barbuda, which is farther removed from the volcanic range, lies entirely in the limestone region. The shells in the limestone differ but little from those of the surrounding sea; but the limestone expands over the whole island, which, although it is 18 miles long and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide, is nowhere higher than 110 feet above the level. A basaltic cover separates this limestone from the volcanoes; and probably these latter, before reaching the surface, have previously forced their way through

the basalt. It occurs again in Tobago. Barbadoes, in its general composition, is very much allied to Antigua, and the same would appear to be the case with St. Bartholomew and St. Martin's. In Deseada, Marie-Galante, and Grande-Terre, limestone only appears. This limestone extends to the north and east sides of Martinique.

Trinidad has once formed a portion of the adjoining continent. The great northern range of mountains that runs from east to west, and is connected with the high land of Paria on the continent by the islands of the Bocas, consists of gneiss, of mica slate containing large masses of quartz, and in many places approaches in nature of talc slate, and of bluish limestone traversed by veins of calc spar. From the foot of the mountains, for many leagues to the northward, there extends a low and perfectly flat land, evidently formed by the debris of the mountains and by the copious tribute of the waters of the Orinoco deposited by the influence of the currents. The famous asphaltum or pitch lake, situated amid a clayey soil, is about three miles in circumference, and in the wet season is sufficiently solid to bear any weight, but in hot weather is often in a state approaching fluidity. The asphaltum appears to be supplied by springs. At the south-west extremity of the island, between Point Ieacos and Rio Erin, are small cones resembling those of the volcanoes of air and mud at Turbaco, in New Grenada, which are of the same nature with those of Macalulia and the Lake Naftia in Sicily.

**CLIMATE, ETC.**—The West Indies, except the more northerly of the Bahama Islands, lie within the tropics, and are consequently subject to great heats; yet even in the warm season the influence of the surrounding ocean, the periodically recurring sea-breezes, and the height of land in the interior of the islands tend to modify the climatic intensity peculiar to their geographical position. In the interior of the large islands, in which elevation is most marked, a mild and delightful temperature is enjoyed throughout the year, and several of the smaller islands possess the same advantages. The lowlands, however, in all these islands are exceedingly unhealthy, and endemic influences render them peculiarly hostile to the European constitution. At the elevation of 1,200 feet the aspect of the climate is different, nor is it liable to the propagation and prevalence of those fevers and fluxes which prove so destructive to life in the low and swampy flats below. In the more northerly of the islands even ice is sometimes formed, but snow has never been known to fall. The year, as in most tropical countries, may be divided into two seasons—the wet and the dry, though there is sufficient to mark the four seasons of more temperate climates. The spring may be said to commence

in April, when the fields put forth their verdant appearance. From May to October the tropical summer reigns in all its intensity. The sea-breeze, however, which sets in at noon, greatly moderates the temperature. The mean height of the thermometer at this season is 80° Fahr. The nights are beautiful, and are tempered by the land-breeze, which blows gently off the shore from about 10 o'clock until daybreak. With October commence the autumnal rains, when the waters pour down in torrents. These continue until December, between which and April serene and pleasant weather prevails. The trade winds blow from an easterly direction from December to June. August is the season of hurricanes, which frequently devastate whole islands. These rarely, however, occur in Cuba, and are almost unknown in Trinidad.

BOTANY, ETC.—The splendor and rich variety of the vegetation of the West Indies is the theme of every traveler, and give to the islands an important position in an industrial point of view. To their valuable native plants, art and industry have added others not less valuable. So fine are the climate and soil, that tropical plants from all parts of the world are readily cultivated. All the beauties which nature has lavished on the equinoctial world are here displayed in their fairest and most majestic forms. On every side innumerable palms of various genera, the cocoa-nut, date, cabbage palm, etc., whose leaves curl like plumes, shoot up majestically their bare and even columns; and high above the rocky summit of the hills the tree ferns appear, while convolvuli and other creepers have climbed their high stems and suspended their painted garlands. Scarcely can the beholder of such scenery define what most excites his admiration, the individual beauty or the contrast of forms,

“— or that eternal spring  
Which here enamels every-thing.”

and calls forth a luxuriance of vegetable life. The ground is overloaded with plants which have scarcely room for their development. The trunks of the older trees are everywhere covered with a thick drapery of ferns, mosses, and orchid plants, which diffuse into the air the richest odors, and almost conceal from sight the noble stems that uphold them. Various plants of humble growth, and which love humidity, display their beautiful verdure on the edges of the streams, and are sheltered by the wide-spreading arms of the mango, the mahogany tree, the teak, mimosas, and other woods remarkable for their stateliness, and clothed in the wild and magnificent pomp so characteristic of the tropics. Here and there, as if for contrast, huge masses of trap, blackened by the action of the atmosphere and decayed tremellæ, present themselves—

those blocks which in colder climates would be doomed to eternal barrenness, or at most would only nourish the pale and sickly lichen, here give support to creeping plants of every form, which cover with yellow, green, and crimson the sides of the sable rock. In their crevices the succulent species are daily renewed and prepare a soil for larger tenants ; from their summits the "old man's beard" and similar plants, which seem to draw their nourishment from the air, hang pendent, floating like tattered drapery at the pleasure of the winds. And here rises the wild fig-tree, one of the gigantic productions of the torrid zone. The huge limbs of this tree, covered with perpetual verdure, throw down often from a height of 80 or 90 feet a colony of suckers of every possible size, from that of pack-thread to the vast cable of a ship, without any visible increase in their diameter and without a joint. These, reaching the ground, become other trees, but still remain united—a happy symbol of the strength which proceeds of union. At other times the suckers, blown about by the winds, are entangled about some neighboring trunk or rock, which they surround with a network of the firmest texture, as if the hand of man had been employed. Here may also be seen the precious nutmeg, exposing in the centre of its bursting drupe the seed surrounded by the crimson mace ; the cassia, with its pendent pods ; the magnificent lagerstræmia, displaying one extended sheet of lovely blossoms ; the cannon-ball tree, with its sweet and painted flowers, scattering its fetid fruit so much resembling the fatal shell that it might be supposed that a company of artillery had bivouacked in its shade ; the calabash, with its large, green pericarp ; the screw pine, with its fruit carved in rude and curious workmanship, with numerous others in infinite variety. Various fruits transplanted from the islands of Asia and other distant lands or the Antilles are mingled together, and attract by their gaudy flowers the humming-bird to their covert. The bread-fruit of the Friendly Islands, and the jack of India, bearing ponderous fruit of 60 or 70 pounds in weight, are here ; and here, too, is the vanilla, with its long suckers ; the black pepper of Asia ; the passiflora and the solandra, mingling their blossoms, while the agave throws up its princely column of fructification from a host of spears. Innumerable cacti and euphorbias, covered with fruit and flowers, give variety to the scene. At every step plants remarkable for their beauty or fragrance ornament the path. By the side of the rivulets rise large clusters of the bamboo. Nothing can exceed the beauty of this arborescent grass, which rises to the height of 60 or 80 feet, waving its light and graceful foliage at every breath of the wind. The sago and several kindred plants, so valuable for their

nutritious fecula, are scattered about. The arrow-root, the papaw, the cashew, the banana, the plantain, and a thousand other rare, valuable, or ornamental trees, shrubs, and plants, with a great variety of medicinal roots and herbs—such betoken the wealth of vegetation in these islands.

ZOOLOGY, ETC.—The zoological productions of the West Indies have been but little attended to. Botanists of nearly every nation have visited and explored the principal islands that the conservatories of the great might be decked with blooming exotics; but as regards zoology, a full century has elapsed without any addition being made to the antiquated history of Sir Hans Sloane on the animal productions of these islands. Of the native quadrupeds, many have no doubt been exterminated by civilization; and although we have no good data to base the surmise upon, it may be supposed that cavies, armadilloes, and other smaller quadrupeds, still exist in the woody and less cultivated districts of the interior. The agouti, although once common, is now only met with in the less cultivated islands. Some wild boars are still found; otherwise the quadrupeds are represented only by monkeys and the vermin species. The bird tribes belong to the same families and in numerous instances to the same species as those of the neighboring parts of the continent, and, indeed, most of the North American summer birds pass their winters in these regions. The mocking-bird of the United States visits Cuba and Jamaica, and the Brazilian motmot inhabits as far north as the Bahama Islands. Trinidad, however, appears to be the chief island for birds; the ruby-topaz, the ruff-necked and the emerald-crested humming-birds are particularly splendid; the crimson-throated maize-bird, the Mexican hang-nest, and the red-headed tanagar are also found in this island. Turkey-vultures of large size and entirely black are not uncommon. Wading and swimming birds have the same general character as those of the adjacent mainland. Pelicans, herons, flamingoes, and other well-known birds haunt the salt marshes, while the jacana and Martinico gallinule are common in fresh-water swamps. Serpents and reptiles of infinite variety are exceedingly prolific. The guana lizard, sometimes five feet long, and the green turtle, so prized by epicures, both form articles of food, and by some the lizard is thought to be as great a delicacy as the turtle. The marine eonehiferous animals are few, and when compared with those of the Indian Archipelago sink into insignificance. The largest are the horned helmet and the strombus gigas, the shells of which are much esteemed for mantel-piece ornaments. Those inhabiting the land, on the contrary, are much more numerous than in Asia. Jamaica, in particular, produces a great variety. It is a general remark

that insects are much less numerous on islands than upon continents, and the West Indies fully confirms this fact. The islands, however, are by no means destitute of these interesting animals. The mosquito, bugs of various kinds, cockroaches, centipedes, ants, chigoes, etc., are as abundant as the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants could well require. The chigo is a dangerous animal, and frequently, by burrowing under the skin, produces inflammation, and frequently mortification.

**ABORIGINES, PRESENT INHABITANTS, ETC.**—The original inhabitants of these islands have long been extinct, except a small remnant which still exists on the islands of St. Vincent and Trinidad. When discovered, a dense population covered these prolific regions, but the barbarities of the Europeans in a short space of time destroyed these unhappy people, supplying their places with the no less unhappy African. Cuba and the other large islands were found in possession of the Arrowauks, a peaceful and timid race that soon submitted to the invader. The inhabitants of the Lesser Antilles, on the contrary, were the warlike and vigorous Caribs, who resisted the sway of the Europeans to the last. The present population is composed of Europeans and their descendants, the creoles; of the African races, and of mixed races sprung from an indefinite amalgamation of all races. These last are of every variety of color and complexion, and are variously classed as mulattoes, quadroons, etc., according to the preponderance of caste. There is still another class, lately introduced into the British islands under the name of *coolies*, who originate in the mountains of Asia, and are imported as free laborers, under stringent regulations. These are introduced to supply the places of the recently emancipated slave population, which, it is said, has become totally debased, and a burden upon the colonists, their former masters. The black races, however, form the most numerous class in all the islands, and on an average about three-fourths of the whole population. This class is now free in all the British islands, slavery having been abolished some twenty years ago; it has also been abolished or greatly modified in the Dutch and French islands; but in Cuba and Porto Rico the slaves yet form about two-thirds of the negro population. In St. Domingo the condition of the races is anomalous, and though the people are nominally free and independent, the most arbitrary and extravagant exactions and impositions render their condition far more deplorable than it could have been under the worst forms of slavery; ruin and barbarism are engulfing the prosperity and energies of all classes, and already it has become a prey to military despotism.

**ERA OF PROSPERITY.**—An uncommon measure of prosperity and wealth

was for a long period enjoyed by these islands. During the last century they supplied almost exclusively sugar, coffee, and other articles, the use of which had become general over the civilized world. After the French revolution and that of San Domingo, the islands belonging to Great Britain became almost the sole quarter whence Europe was furnished with West India produce. Since the peace of Europe many things have tended to reverse the prosperity of the West India Islands, and not least among these is the depression which usually follows over-production, and the competition which has sprung up in both North and South America and other parts of the globe. In the British islands the change of social relations and the policy pursued by the mother country have no doubt been powerful agencies in depression. England had for a long period stimulated production by bounties and protection, and under this system the islands had attained an enviable prosperity. The withdrawal of this protection was necessarily their death-blow, but the sacrifice was necessary to the general welfare of the empire, and its continuance would have been fraught with much commercial disaster. The prosperity of the West Indies must now depend on the energies of the people themselves and their ability to compete with other producing countries, and especially with those employing slave-labor.

**INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS, ETC.**—The industry of the West Indies is confined to agriculture and commerce. Manufactures, from the peculiar state of society in these islands scarcely exist, even in the humblest form for domestic use. Hence commerce is carried on to a much greater extent than in any other country of the same wealth and population. Almost every product of West Indian labor is destined for foreign markets, or those of the mother country, from which in return those islands receive all their clothing and a great portion of their daily food, besides all their machinery and even the ordinary manufactures required for household purposes. The staples of production are coffee, sugar, molasses, rum, spices, etc. Besides the commerce carried on with Europe, an extensive connection is maintained with the United States and British America.

**POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT.**—The several islands are either independent or colonies of European nations, and are politically distributed as follows:

*Independent.*—San Domingo, occupied by the Empire of Hayti and the Republic of Dominica.

*Spanish Colonies.*—Cuba, Porto Rico, etc.

*British Colonies.*—Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Barbuda, St. Christopher's, Antigua, Monserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbadoes, Grenada, Tobago, Trinidad, etc.

*French Colonies.*—Guadaloupe and Martinique, with dependencies.

*Dutch Colonies.*—Curaçoa and dependencies.

*Danish Colonies.*—Santa Cruz, St. John's, and St. Thomas.

*Swedish Colony.*—St. Bartholomew's.

These states and colonies are further and severally considered.

### SANTO DOMINGO.

SANTO DOMINGO or Hayti is one of the richest and most beautiful of the West India Islands; and after Cuba the largest. It is situate between latitudes  $17^{\circ} 36'$  and  $19^{\circ} 59'$  north, and longitudes  $68^{\circ} 20'$  and  $74^{\circ} 28'$  west from Greenwich; and in its greatest extent is about 396 miles long, and in its broadest part 163 miles wide. Area, including the islands Tortuga, Gonaive, etc., 27,690 square miles.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION.**—The island is very irregular in outline, being deeply indented by bays and inlets, and having corresponding projections. The most conspicuous of these are—the Bay of Gonaive, in the west, formed between two extensive peninsulas, and that of Samana, in the east, between the peninsula of the same name and the main island.

The main is intersected east and west by three mountain chains, all mutually connected by offsets; and between these are extensive valleys, plains, and savannahs. The principal central chain, which contains the culminating peaks—of which Cibao, 7,200 feet high, is the loftiest—commences at Cape San Nicolas, in the north-west, takes an east-south-east direction, and terminates at Cape Engaño, the eastern extremity of the island. Nearly parallel with this chain another, commencing near Monte Christi, nearly skirts the north coast till it terminates abruptly on approaching the so-called peninsula of Samana; and is succeeded by low, marshy grounds, interlaced by estuaries and channels, which separate Samana from the main. The heights, however, reappear on the opposite side of the low grounds and terminate in Cape Samana. The third or south mountain range commences at Cape Tiburon, the south-west end of the island, extends eastward along the southern peninsula, and terminates at the river Neiva, about 80 miles west of the city of Santo Domingo. The most extensive plains are—those of La Vega Real, between the north and central ranges, and watered by the Yacki and Yuma; the *llanos* or flats, east of the Neiva and south of the mountains to the coast; and the plains of Artibonite in the west.

All the streams of any importance originate in the central mountains, and, as may be inferred from the general direction of these, have either

an east or west or south course—no stream of consequence flowing north. The principal are—the Artibonite, flowing west, and the Monte Christi or North Yacki, north-west; the Yuma, flowing south-east, and the Neiva or South Yacki, the Nisao, and the Ozama, flowing south. They are all encumbered at their mouths with sand-bars, and hence few of them are navigable even for short distances. The Ozama, however, admits vessels drawing 12 feet of water. In the south-west there are several considerable lakes, viz., the salt lakes of Enriquillo and Azuey—the former, in the valley of the Neiva, about 20 miles long by 8 miles broad, and the latter about 10 by 6 miles; and south of these the fresh-water lake of Icotea or Limon, about the size of Lake Azuey.

Little is known of the geological structure of the island, but a limestone containing vestiges of marine shells is the prevailing formation. Mineral springs exist in several parts—the most noted in the eastern part of the island are those of Banica, Bahama, Yaya, and Pargatal; and in the west the chalybeate of St. Rose, the saline of Jean Rabel, and the alkaline sulphur waters of Dalmarie. The mineral products are various and rich, and include gold, platina, silver, quicksilver, copper, iron, tin, sulphur, manganese, antimony, rock-salt, bitumen, jasper, marble, opal, lazulite, chalcedony, etc. The gold mines of the Cibao Mountains, which in the sixteenth century were very productive, have been abandoned, and at the present day gold is obtained only from the washings in the northern rivers. None of the mines, indeed, are successfully worked, and hence these sources of wealth are reserved for the industry of future generations.

Santo Domingo, as a whole, is one of the healthiest of the West India Islands, and this may more especially be said of its northern coast-region and the more elevated localities of the interior. The Vega Real is famed for its salubrity. Hurricanes occur seldom than in the Caribbean Islands; nor are earthquakes frequent, although on several occasions they have done extensive damage. The most notable on record are those which occurred in 1564, 1684, 1691, 1751, 1770, and 1842; by that of 1751 Port-au-Prince was destroyed, and about 60 miles of coast submerged, and by that of 1842 towns were overwhelmed and thousands of lives lost. Nowhere is tropical vegetation seen to greater advantage. Majestic pines, mahogany trees, fustic, satin-wood, and lignum-vitæ clothe the mountains, and furnish the principal exports of the southern provinces. The *roble* or oak, the wax-palm, *divi-divi*, numerous fine cabinet woods, and the richest flowering plants abound; and the usual tropical vegetables—plantains, bananas, yams, batatas; and fruits—

oranges, pine-apples, cherimoyas, sapodillas, with melons and grapes yield a plentiful return. The staple cultivated products are—coffee, sugar, indigo, cotton, tobacco, and cocoa. The western section of the island has always been the best cultivated. The native quadrupeds are small—the largest not bigger than a rabbit; but the animals introduced from Europe, and now in a wild state, have thriven prodigiously—large numbers of cattle, pigs, and dogs now roaming freely in the savannahs and in the mountain forests. Birds are neither numerous in specie nor remarkable in appearance; still great numbers of pigeons are annually taken and consumed as food, and ducks in large quantities and other swimmers and waders frequent the marshy places. The lakes and rivers contain caymans and alligators, and in the neighboring seas whales are common in the spring season; and green and hawksbill turtles, lobsters, and crabs abound on the coasts.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.—This island was discovered by Columbus in 1492, and here, at Isabella, on the north shore of the island, the discoverer founded the first Spanish colony in the New World. The colonists having at an early period exterminated the aboriginal tribes, now initiated the introduction of African slaves. After the conquest of Peru, many of the settlers emigrated to South America, and the remainder, fearing the escape of their slaves, withdrew to the interior. In 1630 the French, who had been driven from St. Christopher's, settled in the western part of the island, which the Spaniards had deserted, and there finding abundance of cattle and hogs, drove a thriving trade in skins and smoked flesh. Ultimately the island of Tortuga and part of the mainland were claimed by the French settlers for their king, and by treaty with Spain, 1777, the west part of the island was guaranteed to France. From this period to 1789 the new colony rapidly expanded, and in the latter year was in its most flourishing state. In the meanwhile the Spanish colony, now confined to the eastern portion, rapidly declined. In 1790 the population of French Hayti was estimated at 540,000, and consisted of three classes—Europeans; negroes, nearly all slaves; and people of color, the offspring of the two former races. Many of the latter were free-born, or had obtained their liberty, and likewise had enjoyed a liberal education, but nevertheless were excluded from political privileges. On the outbreak of the French revolution a contest ensued between the colored people and the whites—the former claiming political equality. A petty, but sanguinary war ensued, until the slave population, also rising, joined the colored people and completely subdued the whites. The whole island, including the Spanish portion, which had been ceded to the

French in 1794, ultimately fell under the power of the negro chief, Toussaint L'Ouverture, the first president of the Haytian Republic. He was afterward betrayed into the hands of the French, who had dispatched an army to Hayti, with a view of regaining the position they had lost in the island; but after some partial successes they were permanently expelled, and in 1801 the colony was declared independent, and its Spanish name of Santo Domingo replaced by its indigenous one of Hayti, meaning the mountainous country. In 1808 the eastern portion was restored to Spain, through the instrumentality of England. Contentions for power succeeded among the various leaders of the young republic, the darkest atrocities were committed and much blood shed—limited, however, chiefly to the French portion of the island. In 1821 the Spanish portion declared itself independent, and assumed the name of Spanish Hayti; but it was soon subjected by Boyer, the president of French Hayti, and the whole island was again brought under one government. In 1842 a revolution broke out and Boyer was compelled to flee; and in 1844 the inhabitants of the Spanish portion rose, overpowered the Haytiens, and formed themselves into a republic under the name of Santo Domingo.

#### THE EMPIRE OF HAYTI.

HAYTI occupies the west end of the island already described, and corresponds in territory with the portion formerly belonging to the French, including the islands of Tortuga, Gonaive, etc. The east boundary, toward the Dominican Republic, is formed by an irregular line drawn north and south from the river Anses-à-Pitre or Pedernales, on the south coast, about long.  $71^{\circ} 50'$  west, to the mouth of the river Massacre, which flows into the Bay of Manzanilla, about 10 miles south-west from Cape Haytien. The area is about 10,081 square miles.

The country, as signified in its name, and as seen by the preceding account of the island, is mountainous, interspersed with rich, fertile plains and valleys, is well watered, and yields spontaneously many valuable products, and among these may be especially mentioned fine timber of various kinds, dye-woods, and drugs. Agriculture, however, on which it must greatly depend for prosperity, is conducted indifferently, and prosecuted without vigor. The cultivated staples are coffee, sugar, tobacco, etc., and in a minor degree cocoa, indigo, cotton, etc. No manufactures beyond the handicrafts immediately required in every population are engaged in; and even in the products of agriculture the amounts annually brought to market have vastly diminished since the expulsion

of the French—the exportation of sugar having entirely ceased, and that of coffee has become comparatively limited. The exports of the principal products of the colony the last year of French dominion were—clayed sugars, 47,516,531 pounds, and muscovado sugar, 93,573,300 pounds; coffee, 76,835,219 pounds, and cotton, 7,004,274 pounds. In 1851 the amount of coffee exported was only 43,000,000 pounds, and of cotton 1,200,000 pounds. The remaining exports were made up of logwood, mahogany, tobacco, cigars, ginger, beeswax, etc., and with these the value of exported articles amounted to not more than five million dollars. The imports comprise British manufactures of all kinds; French wines, liquors, silks, etc.; German linen fabrics, woolens, bagging, wines, and mineral waters, and American lumber, staves, naval-stores, provisions, etc., in all valued at less than three million dollars.

The Empire is divided into six departments, subdivided into arrondissements and communes; and the population, chiefly negroes, is estimated at 572,000. By the constitution of 1843 the sovereign power was recognized to be in the people; the executive was placed in the hands of a president; the legislative in a chamber of commons and a senate—the former consisting of one or more representatives from each commune elected for three years, and the latter of six for each department elected for four years, and termed collectively the national assembly; and the judicial power was placed in a high court of cassation, being the highest tribunal of appeals, with various subsidiary and initiatory courts. The laws are based on the *code civil* of France. The whole patronage, civil and military, being in the hands of the president, Soulouque the then incumbent dispensed it in such a manner as to enable him in 1849 to have his title of president changed into that of emperor, and to have the constitution altered to suit the circumstances; and shortly after he surrounded himself by a court of *princes of the blood*, dukes, counts, barons, and two orders of knighthood—that of St. Faustin and a legion of honor. The emperor himself took the style of Faustin I. The force of the Haytian army is stated at 28,000 or 30,000 men, but of these about one-half only are considered effective. The people profess the Roman Catholic religion, but others are tolerated. Church affairs are superintended by a vicar-general. In every parish a school on the Lancasterian system is maintained, or at least should be. In 1854 there were in the state 62 such schools and 4 colleges, and in these about 9,000 or 10,000 pupils.

The principal towns in the Empire are Port-au-Prince, Cape Haytien, Gonaives, Jacmel, Cayes, etc. *Port-au-Prince* (or Port Republicain) is the capital and principal sea-port. It is situate at the head of the Bay

of Gonaives, and in lat.  $18^{\circ} 35'$  north, and long.  $72^{\circ} 18'$  west. Population 10,000. The principal edifices are—the palace, which has some architectural excellence, and the churches, arsenal, mint, lyceum, military hospital, etc. The vicinity is marshy and climate unhealthy. Most of the foreign trade centres here. *Gonaives*, 65 miles north-north-west of Port-au-Prince, and on the north-east extremity of the bay of the same name, has an excellent harbor, but is not much frequented. Population 4,000. *Cape Haytien* is the principal port on the north side of the island, and was on several occasions the capital. Population from 8,000 to 9,000. *St. Nicolas* is situate at the extremity of a deep bay, formed by the cape of the same name and the mainland. The principal ports in the south lie on the south shore of the south-western peninsula. Of these, Jacmel, 28 miles south-west from Port-au-Prince, is the best, and has 6,000 inhabitants; and then in line are found Bainet, St. Louis, Cayes, and Tiburon, the last situate at the extreme south-west point of the island. The ports of Goave, Jeremie, and Bon are located on the north side of the peninsula, facing on the Bay of Gonaives.

**RECENT HISTORY.**—At the commencement of 1800 the blacks of Hayti found themselves powerful enough to contend for the possession of the whole island; and on the 1st July, 1801, its independence was declared. Previous to this, in 1794, the Spanish portion in the east had been ceded to France, and hence in this declaration the independence of the whole was assumed. Subsequently the French government attempted to repossess itself of the colony, and for this purpose an expedition of 20,000 men under Le Clerc was dispatched, and landed at Samana. In Feb., 1802, the campaign was begun, and fought with various success until 1st May, when a truce was concluded. During the continuance of this, Toussaint, the Haytian chief, was surprised and conveyed to France, and there died in April, 1803. Hostilities were immediately renewed. The command of the black troops devolved on Dessalines, who prosecuted the war with vigor and success. The yellow fever also aided the cause of the negroes. Le Clerc dying, was succeeded by Rochambeau. An armistice was again concluded by the latter, during which the blacks received large reinforcements, while the French were blocked up by English ships. At the expiration of the armistice the French, now reduced to a handful, were driven into the Cape, where, on the 30th Nov., 1803, they were forced to capitulate to the English squadron. On the 1st Jan., 1804, the Haytians formally reasserted their independence, and Dessalines, who had conducted the war to its close, was appointed governor for life. Afterward he assumed the title of Jaques I., emperor of

Hayti; but his reign was troublous and brief, and terminated in a military conspiracy in October, 1806. Hayti was now divided among several chieftains, the principal of which were Christophe, in the north-west, and Petion, in the south-west. In 1807 Christophe was appointed chief magistrate for life, and in 1811 changed the title to that of king, calling himself Henry I., and the office was made hereditary in his family. Petion continued to act as president of the south-west until May, 1818, when he died, universally lamented. Christophe, on the other hand, was killed in a revolt in October, 1820; and having ruled as a despot, his memory was as universally execrated. All the governments of the west were now reunited under Boyer, the successor of Petion. From 1808 the eastern portion of the island had been repossessed by Spain, and maintained under that government. On the 30th November, 1821, however, the inhabitants revolted and declared their independence. Soon after its territory was added to the western government. This union lasted until the downfall of Boyer, when it was dissolved, and the Dominican Republic proclaimed.

#### THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

SANTO DOMINGO or the Dominican Republic claims for its territory the same extent as held by the Spaniards under the treaty of 1777, and hence all east of the line of the Pedernales and Massacre rivers. The extent of this portion of the island is at least three-fifths of the whole.

CIVIL DIVISIONS, ETC.—The Republic is divided into five provinces—

Provinces.	Area, sq. m.	Population.	Pop. to sq. m.	Capitals.	Popula.
Santo Domingo.....	3,826	35,000	9.15	SANTO DOMINGO.....	10,000
Azua-de-Compostela.....	4,818	15,200	3.52	Azua .....	1,600
Santa-Cruz-del-Seybo.....	3,709	20,000	5.39	Seybo.....	2,800
Santiago-de-los-Caballeros ..	3,172	33,500	10.58	Santiago .....	7,000
Concepcion-de-la-Vega.....	2,584	33,000	12.77	La Vega .....	3,600
Total .....	17,609	136,500	7.75		

—of the population at least nine-tenths are of African origin, or of African and European intermixed. The remainder are Spaniards and creoles.

INDUSTRY.—The Dominicans are almost entirely an agricultural people. The staples of the south provinces consist chiefly of the products of the forests. In Seybo, however, the raising of cattle is the main occupation. But by far the most industrious part is the north, generally called the Cibao, where the staple article is an excellent quality of tobacco, of which, according to the season, 50,000 to 80,000 seroons are produced. The articles of export are mahogany, satin-wood, fustic, lignum-vitæ, and brazil-wood, tobacco, hides, etc. The imports are chiefly flour and provisions from the United States, and general merchandise from Europe.

The following table exhibits the statistics of this trade for the year 1852 and the three years next previous:

Ports.	Entrances.—		Value of Clearances.—		Value of Exports.		Total Commerce.—		
	Vess.	Tons.	Imports.	Vess.	Tons.	Vess.	Tons.	Value.	
Santo Domingo (S.).	162	19,375	\$636,178..	140	18,468	\$677,073..	302	87,843	\$1,818,251
Porto Plata (N.)	162	10,630	527,189..	158	11,446	878,856..	320	22,126	1,406,045
Total 1852 .....	324	30,055	\$1,163,367..	298	29,914	\$1,555,929..	622	59,969	\$2,719,296
" 1851 .....	279	24,449	1,141,891..	261	21,776	1,184,914..	540	46,225	2,326,805
" 1850 .....	272	22,408	731,875..	268	23,290	1,008,173..	540	45,693	1,737,048
" 1849 .....	248	20,082	256,282..	216	16,139	611,875..	464	36,221	868,157

—showing a total increase in four years equal to 213 per cent.

GOVERNMENT, ETC.—The constitution of the Republic is based on that of Venezuela. The Congress, which assembles annually, consists of 15 deputies, three from each province, who form the Tribunado or lower chamber, and five senators, one from each province, constituting the Consejo Conservador or upper chamber. The executive power is vested in a president, who is elected for four years, and who must be a Dominican by birth and at least 35 years of age. The judiciary is exercised by a supreme court and various inferior and local courts; and the French code has been adopted in legal proceedings. In 1852 the revenue amounted to \$374,516; and the ordinary expenditures amount annually to about \$250,000. No foreign debt is owing; but there exists a large home debt on which the currency is based, and hence is of low and fluctuating value. The army amounts to 12,000 men, and may be raised to 16,000. The navy consists of three corvettes and five schooners equipped as war vessels, and mounted with 44 guns. The prevailing religion is the Roman Catholic, but the exercise of all other rites is tolerated. The archbishop still bears the title of Primate of the Indies, although it has not a single suffragan. Public instruction is neglected, even in its primary elements, and, except in the towns, the people have no means of education. In the capital there is a college.

CITIES, TOWNS, ETC.—*Santo Domingo*, the capital and principal sea-port, is situate on the south-west, at the mouth of the Ozama River, and is surrounded by walls and bastions. Lat.  $18^{\circ} 28'$  north, and long.  $69^{\circ} 50'$  west. It was the first permanent settlement of the Spaniards in America. The harbor is secure, but unfit for large ships. The city has wide and regular streets, and the houses, chiefly of stone, are of one story. The most conspicuous public building is the cathedral, commenced in 1514, under Diego, son of Columbus, and in which the ashes of the great discoverer rested for upward of two centuries. There are also 14 churches and chapels. The other principal edifices are—the national palace, the palace of the congress, the cabildo or town-house, college, citadel, ar-

senal, hospitals, etc. The ruins of the Jesuits' college, the palace of Don Diego, and the convent of San Francisco are striking features of the city, and fit mementoes of its former magnificence. The first blow to the prosperity of Santo Domingo was struck in 1586 by Sir Francis Drake, who took it by assault, pillaged, and nearly destroyed it. The earthquakes of 1684 and 1691 ruined most of the buildings which Drake had spared. And lastly the spoliations of the Haytians in 1822–24 deprived it of many of its most interesting monuments. *Porto Plata*, on the north coast, 12 miles north-west of Santiago, is the second principal port of the republic, and the outlet of the commerce of the northern provinces. There are other ports on both sides of the island. The Bay of *Samana* forms one of the finest harbors in the world, and may be regarded as a most important maritime position in reference to the trade of the Gulf of Mexico and the inter-oceanic routes across Central America, both in a commercial and military point of view. Among the places in the interior the following deserve to be mentioned, viz., Azua, where Hernandes Cortez was a public notary; *Concepcion-de-la-Vega*, for the proximity of Fort *Concepcion*, constructed by Columbus, and Santo Cerro, where he erected a cross. *Santiago-de-los-Caballeros* was founded by the dissolute hidalgos in the company of Columbus; it lies on the right bank of the river Yacki, and is now the second town of the Republic. Besides these may be noticed—Higuey, Seybo, San Juan de Maguana, Neybo, Bani, San Cristoval, Bayaguana, Monte Plata, Cotuy, and Boya, the last famed as the place of refuge of Enriquillo, the last of the Haytian caiques.

RECENT HISTORY.—The Spanish colonists threw off their allegiance to Spain, and on the 30th Nov., 1821, declared themselves independent, under the name of the Republic of Spanish Hayti. This measure was not generally approved of; and the colored and black inhabitants preferring annexation to French Hayti, Boyer, then president of that portion of the island, availing himself of this dissatisfaction, marched against the city of Santo Domingo, and overthrowing the provisional government, united the whole island under one government. The union, which had never been cordial, lasted for 21 years. On the fall of Boyer, the Spaniards again asserted their independence, and on the 27th Feb., 1844, proclaimed the Dominican Republic. Hérard Rivière, who succeeded Boyer, marched with an army of 20,000 men upon Santo Domingo, but was defeated by Gen. Pedro Santana, at Azua, who compelled the Haytians to retreat within their own territory. The provincial junta of the new republic now formed a constitution, and elected Santana president. He was followed by Gen. Jimenes in 1848. Soulouque, then president

of Hayti, attempted in 1849 to reconquer the territory with an army of 5,000 men, but was signally defeated at Las Carreras, on the river Ocoa, 21st April, 1849, by Santana, who had only 400 men under his command. For this victory Santana received the title of "Libertador de la Patria." Gen. Jimenes, the president, not being fitted for his task, and the invading army having been driven out of the country, Santana was called upon to restore order within the Republic, and to force the president to resign. This effected, Santana directed the affairs of state until a new election had taken place, by which, upon his recommendation, Buenaventura Baez was named president. During his administration treaties of recognition and commerce with Great Britain, France, and Denmark were concluded. On the 3d July, 1853, Baez was banished, and Santana himself raised to the presidency. It may here be stated that Spain has not yet relinquished her claims upon her former colony.

### SPANISH ISLANDS.

SPAIN, the discoverer of the New World, and the original mistress of one-third of North, the whole of Central, and more than half of South America, at the present day occupies only two islands in the Atlantic Ocean—Cuba and Porto Rico, and their dependencies. The continental portions of her ancient territories are either merged into the United States or have become independent states; and the many islands once under its sovereignty are now either independent or colonies of other European powers. Thus, instead of an empire, we describe a comparatively small colonial possession.

#### THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

CUBA, the largest of the West India Islands, is situate at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico, and about 130 miles south of Florida, 48 from Santo Domingo, 95 from Jamaica, and 132 from Yucatan, in their nearest points. It extends in a crescent form, bowing northward, from Cabo de Maisi on the east to Cabo de San Antonio on the west, or between longitudes  $74^{\circ} 7'$  and  $84^{\circ} 57'$  west, and between latitudes  $19^{\circ} 50'$  and  $23^{\circ} 10'$  north. Area, with its dependencies, 47,278 square miles.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION.**—The island is intersected longitudinally by a range of mountains, diminishing in height from east to west. At the east end, where they are diffused over nearly the entire surface, they attain their greatest elevation, about 8,000 feet. From the bases of these highlands the country opens into extensive meadows or beautiful plains

and savannahs, with occasionally some low, swampy tracts. Owing to the nature of the surface and narrowness of the island there are no rivers of magnitude. The largest, the Cauto, with its sources in the Sierra del Cobre, falls into the Bay of Buena Esperanza, after a course altogether of about 90 miles. None of the streams are navigable excepting for a few miles inland and by small boats. The coasts are in general exceedingly foul, presenting reefs and shallows which extend two or three miles into the sea, and make approach difficult. Within these reefs there is often a good sandy beach, but more frequently a belt of lowland, subject to inundation, wet at all times, and in the rainy season almost impassable. On all sides, however, there are good harbors, eligible ports, and fine bays. Geologically the island may be described as composed of granite, gneiss, sienite, and euphotite, overlain by secondary and tertiary formations, chiefly calcareous, containing numerous fossils, and through which the primitive rocks are often protruded. In some localities the limestone is exceedingly porous and cavernous, absorbing rapidly the tropical rains, and even engulfing considerable streams. The latest calcareous formation is entirely coraliferous, and is constantly accumulating on all the coasts. The mineral riches of Cuba have not yet been fully explored, but it is known that it is not deficient in this respect. The precious metals have been found, but not in abundance. Copper, however, is extensively deposited, especially in the Sierra del Cobre. In the mountains of Juragua there are alum and copperas mines, and coal has been recently discovered near Habana. Serpentine, chalcedony, magnesia, iron pyrites, quartz, and feldspar slates and schists have also been found in various places. The schistose formation shows itself most conspicuously at the base of the mountains of San Juan and Trinidad, where great masses of slate may be seen, of a dark blue color, and of a pyritous and bituminous quality. Near Habana a thick slate is found, fit for pavements. Mineral springs are numerous; and on the north coast are extensive lagoons, which in dry years produce immense quantities of marine salt. The climate is hot and moist near the coasts, but in the interior cool and healthy. Vegetation is exceedingly luxuriant; forests of mahogany, ebony, cedar, fustic, and other useful woods, abound, and the savannahs are covered with flowers and odoriferous plants. Maize or Indian corn is the principal cereal cultivated, and of this two crops are annually produced. In many districts rice is also a large crop. But the principal products are sugar, coffee, and tobacco; also a little cotton, cocoa, and indigo. The principal fruits are the pine or ananas, oranges, shadocks, plantains, bananas, melons, lemons, and sweet limes. The only

indigenous quadruped ever known in Cuba is the *huitia*, which resembles a large rat, about 18 inches long and without tail. Birds, however, are numerous, and in great variety; and insects, including many that are noxious, as jiggers, ants, mosquitoes, and spiders, abound. The most remarkable of the reptiles are the *maja* and the *juba*—the former from 12 to 14 feet long, and the latter about 6 feet long, and both are dangerous. Scorpions and centipedes are also very numerous. The shores abound with turtle, and in the deep gulfs and bays the crocodile and cayman are found; while the manati and iguana are not uncommon—the first in fresh-water pools and the latter on the banks of streams, lagoons, etc. Fish is abundant, especially on the north coast.

MILITARY DIVISIONS, EXTENT, POPULATION, ETC.—Cuba is divided into two departments, and thirty jurisdictions or intendancies, as follows:

Jurisdictions.	Area, sq. m.	Population (1854).			Capitals.	Popula. tion
		White.	Free Col.	Slave.		
<b>OCIDENTAL DEPARTMENT:</b>						
Pinar del Rio.....	3,713	21,843	3,824	9,998	35,665	Pinar del Rio..... 1,500
San Cristóbal .....	905	11,578	1,923	6,548	20,049	San Cristóbal..... 270
Bahia-Honda.....	762	4,124	621	5,494	10,239	Bahia-Honda .... 570
Mariel .....	572	15,921	2,849	19,422	38,192	Guanajay ..... 3,000
San Antonio .....	154	12,284	1,721	10,188	24,193	San Antonio Abad 2,890
Habana.....	893	87,916	32,594	26,850	147,360	HABANA ..... 125,905
Santiago .....	214	7,194	1,597	4,964	13,755	Santiago ..... 2,274
Bejucal .....	191	10,817	1,746	7,933	20,501	Bejucal ..... 2,264
Guanabacoa.....	166	10,721	3,273	4,322	18,316	Guanabacoa ..... 8,100
Rosario .....	309	11,764	2,841	5,423	20,033	Rosario ..... 450
Guínes.....	1,131	18,214	2,442	16,918	37,574	Guínes ..... 3,542
Jaruco .....	512	10,218	1,875	8,136	20,229	Jaruco ..... 611
Matanzas .....	856	37,721	5,948	40,728	81,397	Matanzas ..... 26,000
Cárdenas .....	1,262	27,521	3,824	55,016	86,361	Cárdenas ..... 6,173
Sagua .....	1,464	14,534	1,173	10,001	25,708	Sagua la Grande . 2,510
Cienfuegos .....	2,558	17,811	4,124	11,318	33,258	Cienfuegos ..... 4,708
Villa Clara.....	1,845	25,592	8,528	5,301	39,421	Villa Clara ..... 6,604
Trinidad.....	863	15,208	7,824	9,313	31,350	Trinidad ..... 14,119
Remedios .....	2,429	15,149	3,821	4,012	22,982	Remedios ..... 5,270
Santo Espíritu.....	3,819	24,821	6,394	6,816	37,532	Santo Espíritu.... 9,982
Total .....	24,133	397,451	98,442	268,717	764,610	
<b>ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT:</b>						
Puerto Príncipe .....	6,009	26,893	10,318	9,321	46,532	Puerto Príncipe .. 26,648
Nuevitas .....	2,261	2,721	397	1,742	4,860	Nuevitas..... 820
Tunas .....	2,725	3,818	1,821	722	6,361	Tunas ..... 2,004
Manzanillo .....	1,380	7,321	11,143	917	19,381	Manzanillo ..... 3,050
Holguín .....	2,523	19,427	3,271	3,827	26,525	Holguín ..... 3,754
Bayamo .....	1,309	10,721	11,217	2,724	24,662	Bayamo ..... 5,875
Jiguani .....	702	6,721	4,318	684	11,723	Jiguani ..... 950
Cuba .....	3,177	21,524	29,718	34,000	85,242	Cuba ..... 24,253
Guantánamo .....	1,595	1,574	2,281	5,923	9,783	Guaso ..... 863
Baracoa .....	1,464	3,817	3,721	1,842	9,381	Baracoa ..... 2,400
Total .....	23,145	104,537	78,205	61,708	244,450	
Grand total.....	47,278*	501,988	176,647	330,425	1,009,060	

\* The areas of the adjacent islands and cayos are included in those of the jurisdictions to which they severally belong: the Isla de Pinos, in the jurisdiction of Habana, contains 709 sq. m., and 1,400 inhabitants; the Cayo Romano, in Puerto Príncipe, 190 sq. m.; Cayo Guajaba, 21 sq. m.; Cayo Cocos, 37 sq. m.; Cayo Turiguanó, 51 sq. m.; Cayo Ensenachos, 25 sq. m.; Cayo Cruz, 76 sq. m.; Cayo Largo, 43 sq. m., etc.

—there were also in Cuba about 40,940 persons who were classed as transient residents, and not accounted for in the census. Of the whites, about 90,000 were Spaniards and 25,000 Canary islanders, 3,000 French, 1,000 English, and 3,000 North American and other people.

**PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRY.**—Cuba is agricultural and commercial. It has few manufactures, properly so called; nor are its copper mines, though a conspicuous, a very remunerative interest, and, moreover, these are worked mainly on foreign account.

The staples of agriculture are sugar, coffee, and tobacco; in 1852 the sugar crop amounted to 29,165,238 arrobas (1 = 25 lbs.); coffee, 1,166,902 arrobas; and tobacco, 222,020 cargas. The other principal products were—molasses, 267,185 bocoyes (1 = 36 gals.); rum, 39,411 pipas; beeswax, 74,903 arrobas; and honey, 106,175 barriles (1 = 6 gals.). Root-crops are abundant. The breeding of animals is also a valuable interest; in 1850 the live-stock consisted of—bulls and cows, 773,353; working oxen, 128,480; horses and asses, 214,588; mules, 23,131; hogs, 928,952; sheep, 53,763; goats, 29,385; pea-fowl, 75,646; geese, 25,115; common fowls, 1,562,152; Guinea fowls, 143,177; ducks, 189,708, etc. The annual value of agricultural stock and products is about sixty million dollars. Only about a twentieth part of the island is under cultivation.

The making of sugar and rum, and the preparation of coffee and tobacco for market constitute the chief manufactures. A large number of persons are also employed in the manufacture of cigars; and many articles for home-use are made in families. Ship-building is also carried on; and in Habana and Guanabacoa steam and other machinery is built, while at Puentes-Grandes a paper-mill is in operation. There are also numerous sugar refineries, tanneries, etc. Perfumery, phosphorus, jewelry, plate, carriages, etc., are more or less manufactured.

Commerce is in a very flourishing condition. The exports consist principally of the natural and agricultural products of the island, as mahogany, dye-woods, drugs, sugar, coffee, tobacco, etc. In 1851 there was exported—sugar, 1,549,893 cajas (1 = 16 arrobas); coffee, 625,113 arrobas; beeswax, 47,453 arrobas; molasses, 341,594 bocoyes; leaf tobacco 9,316,593 pounds, and cigars 270,313 thousands; cocoa, 7,039 arrobas; rum, 9,221 pipas; copper ore, 432,882 quintals, etc.—in all valued at \$31,349,357. The imports consist chiefly of grain, flour, salt meat, and fish, etc., from the United States, and general merchandise from England, France, Spain, Germany, etc. The following table exhibits the statistics of the shipping employed in foreign commerce, and

the value of imports and exports, with the duties thereon, for the year 1851:

Ports.	Navigation.		Commerce.		Duties Collected.	
	Entrances.	Clearances.	Imports.	Exports.	Import.	Export.
Habana	1,749	1,622	\$25,519,146	\$16,577,001	\$4,776,571	\$1,020,905
Matanzas	499	578	1,889,478	5,373,370	568,186	305,083
Cárdenas	413	414	689,582	1,299,755	187,638	38,277
Mariel	33	—	3,527	7,350	1,000	—
Trinidad	197	188	706,987	1,608,017	181,197	74,415
Cienfuegos	266	230	571,468	1,273,368	179,754	73,900
Nuevitas	52	52	162,115	206,519	39,760	10,886
Sagua	129	129	128,221	1,217,108	64,976	72,874
Remedios	46	47	58,129	284,192	24,848	23,974
Santo Cruz	19	20	9,569	54,220	7,347	2,889
Santo Espíritu	11	11	29,884	42,206	8,129	2,972
Cuba	314	311	2,186,988	2,681,411	530,658	108,024
Jibara	87	84	233,734	300,171	36,463	32,931
Manzanillo	65	65	162,974	254,266	55,548	16,888
Baracoa	34	31	68,188	170,410	16,450	9,280
Guantanamo	1	1	2,320	—	310	181
Total	8,865	8,733	\$32,315,145	\$31,349,857	\$6,678,835	\$1,793,984

—of the vessels inward, 883 were Spanish, and 2,982 foreign, and of those outward, 793 were Spanish, and 2,940 foreign.

The following table exhibits the average quantities of the principal products of the island exported annually, in quinquennial periods:

Periods.	Sugar, arrobas.	Rum, pius.	Molasses, bocoyes.	Coffee, arrobas.	Beeswax, arrobas.	Tobacco. lbs or lbs.	Cigars, ribns	Copper Ore, quintals.
1826-30	6,508,137	3,606	72,921	1,718,865	25,789	102,915	245,097	—
1831-35	7,893,575	3,991	98,478	1,995,882	28,582	93,763	471,993	—
1836-40	10,143,555	6,235	128,447	1,877,444	32,253	195,487	790,467	—
1841-45	12,867,698	9,157	147,074	1,832,997	37,407	244,872	941,467	1,028,838
1846-50	18,690,460	13,653	240,155	763,244	48,141	291,347	896,008	598,647

—and the annexed shows the progressive value of the average annual commercial movement:

Periods.	Value of Imports.	Increase per cent.	Value of Exports.	Increase per cent.	Total Commerce.	Increase per cent.
1826-30	\$15,412,689	—	\$12,717,929	—	\$28,130,618	—
1831-35	16,756,448	8.7	12,887,339	1.3	29,643,787	5.4
1836-40	21,652,766	29.2	18,503,648	43.6	40,166,414	35.5
1841-45	22,472,835	8.7	24,099,646	30.2	46,572,001	15.9
1846-50	27,150,754	20.8	24,828,988	3.0	51,979,742	11.6

Incr. in 25 yrs. \$11,788,065 75.5 \$12,111,059 95.3 \$23,849,124 84.8

—the value of domestic produce exported in 1846 was \$21,587,564; in 1847, \$27,296,954; in 1848, \$25,312,553; in 1849, \$21,896,526; and in 1850, \$25,043,154: average of five years, \$24,227,350.

The mercantile navy consists of 639 vessels of all sizes, of which 7 are vessels of over 400 tons, 30 of 200 to 400 tons, 99 of 80 to 200 tons, 295 of 20 to 80 tons, and 208 of less than 20 tons. Of these 20 are steamers, and 389 of foreign construction.

Regular steamship lines are established between Habana and New York, Charleston, Key West, Mobile, and New Orleans, in the United States; Vera Cruz, in Mexico; Aspinwall, in Central America; Rio

Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, in South America; Southampton and Liverpool, in England; and Cadiz, in Spain. All the steamships composing these lines carry the public mails, and run either semi-monthly or monthly.

Internal communication is amply provided for. All the chief ports are connected by lines of coasting steamers and sail-vessels. Common roads of the island are open from one to the other end, with lateral roads diverging to the coast towns; and the railroad, introduced in 1837, now traverses over a length of 351 miles. The principal railroads are those from Habana to Batabana and Matanzas; from Cárdenas to Navajas; the Jucaro railroad, and those from Villa Clara to Cienfuegos, and from Puerto Principe to Nuevitas. Several of the large cities are also connected by lines of the electro-magnetic telegraph.

**GOVERNMENT, ETC.**—All branches of the administration are subject to a representative of the Spanish crown, who is at the same time captain-general, superior civil governor, president of the Audiencia Real, etc., and who is appointed by and amenable only to the home government. The whole island constitutes a single province. For political and civil purposes it is divided into three governments—Habana, Matanzas, and Cuba, and these are subdivided into sub-governments, parishes, etc. Habana comprises all the jurisdictions of the occidental department except Matanzas, and is under the immediate charge of the superior civil governor; Matanzas is a separate government, and Cuba comprises all the jurisdictions of the oriental department. The two latter are subject to civil governors, nearly independent of the supreme civil governor. The principal civil tribunal is the royal court (*audiencia real pretorial*) of Habana, which has jurisdiction over the whole island, and is presided over by the superior civil governor. Provincial courts (*ayuntamientos*) are also established, and police courts in the rural districts. The ecclesiastical are coterminous with the military divisions.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.**—The total receipts into the treasury in 1850 amounted to \$12,248,713, of which \$6,721,251 was maritime revenue, and \$5,527,402 internal revenue; and the expenditures amounted to \$11,779,160. The revenue for the ten years then ending had been as follows:

Years.	Maritime.	Internal.	Total.	Years.	Maritime.	Internal.	Total.
1841....	\$7,266,464..	\$4,650,835..	\$11,917,299	1846....	\$6,232,967..	\$4,907,811..	\$11,140,779
1842....	7,883,846..	4,731,496..	12,114,848	1847....	7,494,380..	5,314,883..	12,808,718
1848....	6,957,017..	3,407,040..	10,394,057	1848....	7,396,726..	6,038,715..	13,435,441
1844....	7,160,631..	3,829,621..	10,490,252	1849....	6,429,160..	5,840,260..	12,269,420
1845....	5,870,748..	3,629,252..	9,000,000	1850....	6,721,250..	5,527,462..	12,248,712

The expenditures in 1851 were—civil \$1,841,010, military \$5,028,901, naval \$2,045,004, and miscellaneous \$1,300,731; and \$1,563,513 was

transmitted to Spain in support of legations, pensioners, and employees connected with the island government.

**ARMED FORCES.**—The land force of Cuba consists of 16 regiments of infantry of 1,100 men; two of cavalry of four squadrons, each of 151 men; one of artillery with eight batteries, and a company of sappers and miners with five batteries; and a company of engineers—the whole force amounting to 17,600 infantry, 1,808 cavalry, 1,500 artillery, and 130 engineers, in all 21,038 men. In this enumeration is not included the civil guard. The naval squadron comprises 25 vessels carrying 219 guns, and is manned by 3,000 seamen and marines. Among these is 1 frigate, 44 guns; 7 brigs, 104 guns; 11 steamers, 54 guns; 4 goletas, 11 guns; 2 gun-boats, 6 guns; 2 transports, etc.

**EDUCATION, RELIGION, ETC.**—Both religion and education are under the immediate protection of the government. For ecclesiastical purposes the island is divided into two dioceses, the archbishopric of Cuba and the bishopric of Habana, and these are divided into vicarages and curacies. The Roman Catholic is established to the exclusion of all other religions, and is that universally professed by the people. Public education has made notable progress, and is under the patronage of the royal economic societies of Habana and Cuba, and controlled by a special commission. The total number of persons employed in giving primary instruction is about 460, and the number of scholars about 10,000. In Habana there is a royal university, which has a staff of 30 professors—in 1851 it had 252 matriculants, and of these 61 graduated. There are also ecclesiastical seminaries in Habana and Cuba; and in the principal places are good grammar schools. Among the many Cubans who have distinguished themselves in literature are—the poets Zequeria, Rubalcaba, Heredia, Blanchié, and Milanes; the dramatist Alarcos; the novelist De Merlin; the historians Arrate, Urritia, Valdes, and Heredia; the statist De la Torre; the grammarian Vidal; the lawyers Ayala, Hechavarrea, Ponce de Leon, Escovedo, Armas, and Govantes; and the physician Romay. In Habana 4 daily papers and 1 monthly and 3 other periodicals are issued, and in all the principal towns one or more papers are published weekly.

**CITIES, TOWNS, ETC.**—Cuba contains 13 cities, 8 towns, and 102 villages. *Habana*, the capital and principal sea-port, stands on the west side of the entrance of a magnificent land-locked harbor, in lat.  $23^{\circ} 9' 4''$  north, and  $82^{\circ} 22'$  west, and is strongly protected by forts and walls, the latter dividing it from the suburbs Salud, Guadalupe, etc., in which nearly half of the population resides. The suburb Regla is on the opposite side of the har-

bor. The streets of the city are narrow, but the suburbs well laid out and paved, generally with granite. The buildings are mostly of stone; and among these the most conspicuous are the cathedral (containing the ashes of Columbus), the government palace, admiralty, post-office, royal tobacco factory, and the *casa de beneficencia*, numerous churches, convents, etc. There are about 90 male and 66 female schools in the city, a university, and an ecclesiastical seminary, a theatre capable of holding 6,000 persons, and other places of public amusement. It is connected with Batabana, Matanzas, Cárdenas, etc., by railroad. *Matanzas*, second only to Habana in commercial prosperity, is situate in a deep bay on the north coast, about 60 miles east of the capital. It has a well-sheltered harbor, partly inclosing the town, and has acquired all its importance since the commencement of the present century. *Puerto Príncipe* is situate in the interior, about 45 miles west-south-west of its port Las Nuevitas, with which it is connected by railroad, and was formerly the seat of the audiencia real or royal court. *Santiago de Cuba*, is the principal sea-port of the south coast. It has a magnificent harbor, and is chiefly engaged in the exportation of copper ore. It is the see of the archbishop, and contains a cathedral, theological seminary, several learned societies, and a theatre. The city was greatly injured by an earthquake in 1853. The other cities are—*Santiago*, *Bejucal*, *Rosario*, *Jaruco*, *Trinidad*, *Nuevitas*, *Bayamo*, *Holguin*, and *Baracoa*, and the towns are—*San Antonio*, *Guanabacoa*, *Güines*, *Cienfuegos*, *Villa-Clara*, *Remedios*, *Santo Espíritu*, and *Manzanillo*. All other places are villages.

**HISTORY.**—Cuba was discovered on the 28th October, 1492, by Columbus, who revisited it in 1494, and again in 1502. In 1511 the Spaniards formed their first settlements on the island, and with slight interruption have retained possession of it ever since. In 1762 Habana was captured by the British, but was restored in the following year. From this period the history of Cuba presents little more interesting than a catalogue of captains-general and bishops down to the period 1809–11, when the ports were opened to the shipping and trade of foreign countries. This event marks the commencement of the material prosperity of the island, which is still only in course of development. For the past few years the quiet of the inhabitants has been disturbed by piratical expeditions from the United States; and the avowed design of the government of that country to acquire the island by purchase or conquest.

## THE ISLAND OF PORTO RICO.

PORTO RICO, the smallest of the Great Antilles, and the most eastward, is situate between latitudes  $17^{\circ} 56'$  and  $18^{\circ} 22'$  north, and longitudes  $65^{\circ} 41'$  and  $67^{\circ} 12'$  west from Greenwich. In shape the island is parallelogramic; its length about 90 miles, and its breadth about 36 miles. Area, with dependencies, 3,865 square miles.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION.**—A range of wooded mountains traverses the island east and west, averaging 1,500 feet, and in their loftiest culmination attaining an elevation of 3,678 feet above the sea. In the interior are extensive savannahs; and in some parts, along the coasts, there are tracts of level fertile land from 5 to 10 miles wide, while in others the mountains approach much nearer to the sea. Nearly the whole north coast is lined by long and deep lagoons, and many of the rivers can be navigated to the base of the mountains. The north coast is subject to heavy ground seas, which beat against the cliffs with great violence. There are, nevertheless, good harbors on both sides of the island, and numerous bays and creeks deep enough for vessels of considerable tonnage. The climate is generally salubrious; and vegetation, fostered by its warm moisture, is exceedingly luxuriant. The principal timber growths are ebony, cedar, lignum-vitæ, mahogany, logwood, etc., and many plants valuable in the arts and pharmacy grow spontaneously. Among the minerals found in Porto Rico the most valuable are copper, iron, lead, and coal; and gold is found in the streams. There are also two considerable salt-ponds, which are worked by the government.

**DIVISIONS, ETC.**—Porto Rico, with its dependencies, is divided into eight departments or districts, as follows:

Departments, etc.	Area, sq. m.	Popula. (1846).	Pop. to sq. m.	Chief Towns.	Popula.
La Capital.....	565	70,861	125.42	{ SAN JUAN BAUTISTA..	15,367
				Bayamon .....	8,125
Arecibo.....	676	54,044	79.93	Arecibo .....	11,187
Aguadilla.....	257	57,322	223.04	Aguadilla .....	10,458
Mayagües.....	684	99,895	146.04	{ Mayagües .....	20,952
				San German .....	44,402
Ponce.....	738	71,168	96.44	Ponce .....	21,466
Humacao.....	843	41,593	121.26	Humacao .....	6,165
Guayama.....	529	51,756	97.83	{ Guayama .....	12,244
Isla de Vieque.....	78	1,275	17.46	Caguas .....	7,808
Total.....	3,865	447,914	115.88	Isabela Secunda.....	354

—of the total population 220,045 were Spaniards and their descendants, and 227,869 African and mixed races, of which about 45,000 are slaves. The total population in 1836 numbered 357,086 souls: the increase in the ten years to 1846 was thus in the ratio of 25.5 per cent., and hence, with the same rate, the island in 1856 will have 562,134 inhabitants.

INDUSTRY.—The resources of Porto Rico are essentially agricultural. Until lately none of its mines were worked; nor has manufacturing industry made any progress. Not more than one-twelfth of the island is under cultivation. The principal products are sugar, coffee, and tobacco; and extensive farms are laid off for the rearing of live-stock. The capital invested in agriculture in 1846 amounted to \$40,796,464, and the value of agricultural products for the year preceding amounted to \$6,896,621. The capital employed in other industries was \$7,823,545, and the production \$448,344. The value of products exported in 1851 was \$5,761,975, and of imports \$6,073,870; and the customs collected on these amounted to \$1,069,418. The chief articles of exports in the same year were—sugar, 118,416,300 pounds; coffee, 12,111,900 pounds; tobacco, 6,478,100 pounds; hides, 632,700 pounds; cotton, 366,600 pounds; molasses, 45,976 hogsheads; rum, 347 hogsheads; cattle, 5,881 head; cigars, 34,800 thousands, and smaller quantities of cocoa, oranges, plantains, logwood, lignum-vitæ, pimento, annato, castor oil, etc. The number of vessels entered at the various ports was 1,324, measuring 160,586 tons. San Juan, Mayagües, Ponce, Guayama, Aguadilla, Naguabo, and Arecibo are the principal ports.

GOVERNMENT, ETC.—The government, laws, and institutions are nearly similar to those established by Spain in her other Transatlantic possessions. Porto Rico is governed by a captain-general, whose authority is supreme in military affairs, and who is president of the Audiencia Real in civil affairs. In the towns which are capitals of districts, justice is administered by mayors or judges of the first instance, and in the smaller towns and villages by inferior magistrates called alcaldes. The Real Audiencia is the supreme court of the island, and is held at the capital. District courts are held at the capital, Arecibo, Aguadilla, Mayagües, San German, Ponce, Caguas, and Humacao. Each of the eight districts has its military commandant. The regular land force consists of three European regiments, each of 900 men, a brigade of artillery, six battalions of disciplined militia infantry, and a regiment of cavalry—in all about 10,000 men; and the militia numbers about 45,000 in all. The naval force, which is essentially a section of the Habana fleet, consists of a ship of war, a schooner, and some score gun-boats. The people are wholly Roman Catholic, and are under a bishop. Education has of late years been attended to, and is now accessible to all, either in the free schools or at private establishments in all the larger towns.

CHIEF TOWNS, ETC.—*Porto Rico* (San Juan de), the principal city, and a fine sea-port, is situate on the north coast in lat.  $17^{\circ} 56'$ , and long.

66° 10'. It stands on a small island connected with the mainland by a bridge, and is surrounded by strong fortifications. It has six churches and chapels, the bishop's palace, a military hospital, theatre, town-house, jail, custom-house, arsenal, etc., and is the seat of government and superior courts of the island. The harbor is very spacious, and capable of accommodating vessels of the largest size. It is one of the best regulated and most healthy towns of the West Indies.

**HISTORY.**—Columbus discovered Porto Rico in 1493, at which period it is said to have had a population of 600,000 or 800,000 souls. In 1509 it was invaded by the Spaniards from Hayti, who in a few years exterminated the natives and took possession of the island. In the latter part of the seventeenth century it was captured by the English; but soon after abandoned on account of mortality among the troops. From this time it has been free from foreign aggression; but in 1820 a revolution was attempted in favor of separation from the mother-country, and independence. This was subdued in 1823.

### BRITISH ISLANDS.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES consist of—the Bahamas, the island of Jamaica, several of the Caribbean Islands, and a number of small islands of the Virgin group. In a more extended sense, the term applies also to the Bermuda Islands in North America, Honduras, and the Bay Islands in Central America, and the colonies of Guayana in South America; but these are more conveniently described in connection with the geographical sections to which they properly belong. The islands included in the political family to which reference is now had are as follows.

Islands.	Area, sq. m.	Popula.	Pop. to sq. m.	Capitals.	Popula.
Bahamas.....	5,094	27,519	5.4	Nassau .....	8,400
Turk's and the Caicos.....	430	4,428	10.3	Grand Turk.....	2,000
Jamaica .....	6,250	377,433	60.4	SPANISH Town.....	6,300
Caymans.....	260	1,760	6.7	Georgetown.....	200
Trinidad .....	2,020	68,645	33.9	Puerto d'España.....	12,000
Tobago .....	144	13,208	94.9	Scarboro'.....	1,400
Grenada, etc.....	155	32,671	210.7	St. Georgetown .....	1,800
St. Vincent .....	132	30,128	228.2	Kingstown.....	5,300
Barbadoes .....	166	135,930	818.9	Bridgetown .....	22,000
St. Lucia .....	296	24,516	82.8	Castries .....	2,600
Dominica .....	274	22,061	80.5	Roseau.....	4,800
Montserrat .....	47	7,653	163.8	Plymouth .....	1,400
Antigua.....	108	37,757	349.6	St. John's .....	14,600
St. Christopher .....	68	23,177	340.8	Basse-Terre .....	7,600
Nevis .....	21	9,601	457.2	Charlestown.....	1,800
Barbuda .....	72	1,707	23.7	Barbuda Castle.....	—
Anguilla .....	34	3,052	89.8	Anguilla .....	300
Virgin Islands.....	92	6,689	72.7	Tortola.....	2,700
Total,.....	15,663	835,944	53.8		

—about four-fifths of the population are blacks and other colored races, and the remainder Europeans and their descendants. In St. Vincent and Trinidad a few hundred of the aboriginal Caribs still remain.

THE BAHAMAS or Lucayos are a group or archipelago which extends in a crescent-like form from Matanilla Reef, in lat.  $27^{\circ} 50'$ , to the north-west side of Santo Domingo, in about lat.  $21^{\circ}$  north, and occupy a large portion of the space included between the 72d and 79th meridians. The principal islands are situate on those remarkable flats called the Bahama Banks, to the east of Florida channel. The inhabited islands are:

Islands.	Area, sq. m.	Popula.	Islands.	Area, sq. m.	Popula.
Harbor Island.....	8.....	1,840	Ragged Islands.....	5.....	347
Eleuthera, etc. ....	223.....	4,610	Andros ..... {	782 {	1,030
New Providence.....	101.....	8,159	Green Cayo { .....	{ 7	
Rum Cayo and Acklin's....	32.....	558	Grand Bahama.....	451.....	922
Crooked Island.....	252.....	1,092	Berry Islands..... {	{ 236	
San Salvador or Cat Island	379.....	1,828	Bimini and Gun Cayo { .....	{ 31 { .....	150
Exuma, Little and Great..	142.....	2,027	Watling Island.....	44.....	384
Long Island.....	239.....	1,474	Inagua (Heneagué).....	376.....	530
Abaco, etc.....	501.....	2,011	Cayo Sal and Anguilla....	16.....	71

—the approximate area of the whole group is stated at 5,094 square miles. Population in 1841, 23,401, and in 1851, 27,519. The principal exports consist of salt, fruit, sponge, shells, turtle, dye-woods, bark, and fustic. In 1851 the exports were valued at \$182,022, and the imports at \$445,229. The shipping in the trade amounted to 31,117 tons, and the shipping belonging to the island to 144 vessels of 3,978 tons. The government consists of a governor, council, and house of assembly. In 1851 the revenue was \$125,304, and the expenditures \$120,326. The Bahamas are in the diocese of Jamaica. *Nassau*, on New Providence, is the seat of government. San Salvador is noted as the first American land discovered by Columbus in 1492. The islands were settled by the English in 1666.

TURK'S ISLAND AND THE CAICOS, which are physically a portion of the Bahama group, were erected into a presidency under Jamaica in 1848. They lie south-east of the Bahama government, between Caicos and Mouchoir Carré passages. Area 430 square miles: population 4,428. Salt is the staple of export. The government is vested in a president and council of eight members. The president resides on Grand Turk.

JAMAICA is the largest of the British islands. It lies between lat.  $17^{\circ} 43'$  and  $18^{\circ} 32'$  north, and long.  $76^{\circ} 05'$  and  $78^{\circ} 26'$  west; length 146 and breadth 49 miles, and area 6,250 square miles.

The island is traversed by lofty mountains. The Blue Mountains, occupying the centre, stretch east and west, and vary in elevation from 7,000 to 8,000 feet. The more elevated ridges are flanked by lower ranges descending to verdant savannahs, and are covered with stately forests.

These hills present the characteristics of the limestone formation, of which they consist, and caverns occur in several places, and some of them are very extensive. Jamaica is well-watered, having numerous small rivers, rivulets, and springs, but none of the first, except Black River, are navigable. The cultivated products are sugar, indigo, coffee, and a little cotton. The quantity of sugar produced averages 41,678 hogsheads. Horned cattle and mules are numerous, and sheep, goats, and hogs abound. The horses are fit only for the saddle. Fish of many kinds are found on the coast and in the rivers. The principal exports, besides the above named, are arrow-root, pimento, rum, ginger, cocoa, logwood, molasses, and tobacco. The exports in 1851 were valued at \$5,128,224, and the imports at \$5,366,808.

The population in 1848 numbered 377,433 souls. At the present time it is supposed to be much less, since the cholera of 1851–52 carried off about 40,000, a number not supplemented by natural increase.

Government is administered by a governor and council appointed by the crown, and a house of assembly, the members of which are elected by the freeholders. The military establishment generally comprises four European regiments of the line, one West India regiment, a strong detachment of artillery, and the colonial militia. The revenue in 1851 amounted to \$866,736, and the expenditures to \$1,049,511. The church is presided over by a bishop, whose diocese extends over the Bahamas and Honduras. Education is rapidly extending, and in 1850 there were in the island 8 free schools connected with the established church, 82 public schools, and 9 free schools supported by the government, 46 Wesleyan mission schools, 21 Moravian, 1 Catholic, 2 Jews, and 33 other schools.

*Spanish Town*, the capital, and *Kingston*, the chief port, 16 miles distant, are connected by railway. The other towns are Montego Bay, Falmouth, and Lucea on the north coast, and Morant Bay on the south; besides which there are the smaller towns of Black River, Savanna-la-Mar, and Port Morant on the south, and St. Ann's Bay, Port Maria, Anatto, and Antonio on the north coast.

Jamaica was discovered by Columbus in 1494, and was first colonized by Spaniards in 1503. It remained subject to the crown of Spain until 1655, when it was taken by the English.

THE CAYMANS, consisting of three principal islands, viz., Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Caymanbrac, are distant west-north-west from Jamaica, of which government they are dependencies, between 140 and 200 miles, and are situate between lat.  $19^{\circ} 10'$  and  $19^{\circ} 45'$  north, and long.  $79^{\circ} 30'$  and  $81^{\circ} 35'$  west. Area about 260 square miles. Grand

Cayman, which is the only one inhabited, is 20 miles long, and from 7 to 10 miles wide ; and is covered with cocoa-nut trees. On the west side is Georgetown, a large village ; but the other parts are thinly peopled. The chief occupation of the natives is in catching turtle for the markets of Jamaica and other islands.

TRINIDAD, the most southerly of the islands, is separated from the mainland of South America only by the Gulf of Paria, and is evidently a section of the continent. It is about 90 miles long by 50 wide, and contains about 2,020 square miles. The population in 1851 numbered 68,645, of which about 4,000 are of European origin, and the remainder, except some 600 aborigines, consists of Africans and their descendants.

Approached from the north, Trinidad appears like an immense ridge of rocks—its east and south shores are also rocky and high ; but on the south, or side next the Gulf of Paria, it presents one of the most magnificent panoramas imaginable—the hills, valleys, and plains being covered with perennial verdure. The mountain chains run west and east—in the north, near the sea, they attain an elevation of 3,000 feet ; in the centre is a less elevated group, and in the south a series of beautiful hills and knolls, among which numerous delightful valleys occur. In the intervals between these ranges are several extensive plains, stretching nearly across the island. These plains are bountifully watered. The principal rivers are the Caroni, the Oropuche, and the Ortoire—the first two navigable. The nucleus of the mountains is a very dense argillaceous schist. There is no granite on the island ; but blocks of milky quartz are found in every valley. Gypsum and limestone are rare. Near Point Icaque, forming the south-west extremity of the land, are several mud volcanoes ; and submarine volcanoes also occur on both sides of the island—one on the west, near Cape Brea, which frequently discharges petroleum, and the other, near Cape Mayero, which in March and June gives detonations resembling thunder, succeeded by flames and smoke, and afterward ejecting bitumen. But the most remarkable phenomena of this kind in the island is the asphaltum or pitch lake, situate in the leeward side, on a small peninsula jutting into the sea a little to the north-east of Guapo Bay. Several attempts have been made to ascertain the depth of the lake, but no bottom has ever been found. The climate is apparently less unhealthy than that of many of the other islands. Abundant dews cool and invigorate the atmosphere, and give an unrivaled luxuriance to vegetation. The soil is generally fertile, and the elevated parts are mostly covered with dense forests, among which the red cedar and various palms are conspicuous.

The chief crop of Trinidad is cocoa. The other exportable products are sugar, molasses, rum, and coffee, small quantities of cotton and ginger, and asphaltum from the pitch lake. The exports of 1851 were valued at \$1,383,696, and the imports at \$1,996,512.

Trinidad is a crown colony, the public affairs being administered by a governor, assisted by an executive and a legislative committee. The revenue in 1851 amounted to \$425,568, and the expenditures were \$371,532. Schools are established in the towns, and considerable progress has been made in educational matters. The great body of the people (43,605) are Catholics. *Puerto d'España*, on the north-west side of the island, is the capital, and one of the finest towns in the West Indies. Trinidad has numerous other good harbors on its west and also south coasts, particularly on the former. On the east and north shores but few occur, and those indifferent. The island was discovered by Columbus in 1498, and taken from the Spaniards by the British in 1797.

TOBAGO is situate 24 miles north-east of Trinidad. Its length, north-east and south-west, is 32 miles, and its greatest breadth about 12 miles. Area 144 square miles. Population 13,208. It is one entire mass of rocks, rising with a steep ascent on the north-east, and descending gradually toward the south-west, with some small but picturesque valleys intervening. The greatest height of the rock is 900 feet. The western part is the least mountainous, and on the south terminates in broken plains and lowlands. The island is well watered by streams and rivulets rising in the interior and passing through the lowlands to the sea. It has several good harbors along the north coast for vessels of 150 tons, and a few also on the south coast. The climate is extremely unhealthy. The chief and almost exclusive products are sugar, rum, and molasses. In 1851 the exports were valued at \$254,554, and the imports at \$110,040. Government is administered by a lieutenant-governor, assisted by a council, both appointed by the crown. The legislature consists of the above and a house of assembly of 16 elected members. Revenue in 1851, \$42,317; expenditures, \$42,331. *Scarboro'*, on the south-west side of the island, is the seat of government, and the principal shipping port. *Georgetown*, farther east, is also a port. The island was discovered by Columbus in 1496, and ceded to Great Britain by France in 1763.

GRENADA is situate about 72 miles north of Trinidad. It is of an oblong form, and extends north and south 24 miles, with a maximum breadth of 10 miles. Area about 125 square miles; but including the Grenadines, several small islands between Grenada and St. Vincent, about

155 square miles. Population 32,671. Grenada is one of the most beautiful of the West India Islands. Irregular masses of volcanic mountains, in some parts 3,000 feet high, traverse it north and south, and from these hills of less height branch off in lateral directions. The intervening valleys are well watered by rivulets rising in the mountains. The soils are various, but consist principally of a rich black or reddish colored mold, well adapted to every tropical production. Cotton was formerly the chief article of culture; but at present sugar, rum, and molasses stand first in the exports, which amounted in 1851 to \$646,925. The imports for the same year were valued at \$762,864. The government consists of a lieutenant-governor and a legislature, consisting of a council and a house of assembly. The revenue for 1851 amounted to \$81,388, and the expenditures to \$76,023. *St. Georgetown*, in the south-west of the island, is the seat of government and centre of trade. On the south coast there is good anchorage at Egmont Harbor, and on the east at Grenville Bay. Grenada was discovered by Columbus in 1498; colonized by the French in the middle of the seventeenth century; taken by the British in 1762; recaptured in 1779, and restored in 1783.

ST. VINCENT is situate about 90 miles north of Grenada, and the same distance west of Barbadoes. The island is about 18 miles long and 11 miles wide, with an area of 132 square miles. Population 30,128. The central mountains of St. Vincent are bold, sharp, and abrupt in their terminations, and are clothed in magnificent forests. The valleys between the spurs open on approaching the coast, which is bold and rocky. These are well watered and very fertile. On the north-east the surface is more level and less broken; and there is a large tract at the base of the Souffrière, an extinct volcano 3,000 feet high, gradually declining toward the sea, and which is the most productive land of the colony. The climate is remarkably fine. The principal products are sugar, rum, and molasses; and in less quantities coffee, cocoa, and cotton. These, with dyewoods, arrow-root, etc., form the exports, the value of which in 1851 was \$1,048,896. The imports for the same year were valued at \$953,664. The government consists of a lieutenant-governor, a council, and assembly. The revenue of 1851 amounted to \$78,264, and the expenditures to \$77,856. Bequia, and a number of other small islands are dependencies of St. Vincent. *Kingstown*, the capital, is situate on a deep bay near the south-west extremity of the island, and is a strongly fortified town. The other principal places are Calliagua, Georgetown, and Princetown. St. Vincent was discovered by Columbus on the 22d January, 1498. Since 1719 it had been occu-

pied successively by the French and English; but in 1783 it was finally ceded to the latter nation.

ST. LUCIA lies 21 miles north by east from St. Vincent, and 20 miles south of Martinique; and is 27 miles in length and 14 miles wide. Area 296 square miles; population 24,516. It is evidently of volcanic origin, and, with exception of the plains of Gros Islet in the north, and of Vieux-Fort in the south, has an elevated, rugged, and mountainous surface. Several of the heights have, at no remote period, been volcanoes, and in one of them, called Souffrière, volcanic agency is still active. The greater part of the island, and especially the more mountainous parts, are covered with masses of dense and gloomy forests; but the valleys and lower heights, the soil of which consists of decomposed lava, possess almost inexhaustible fertility. This advantage, however, is counterbalanced by the general unhealthiness of the climate. The staple product is sugar cane, the cultivation of which is rapidly increasing. The exports of sugar amounted in 1847 to 41,850 cwts., in 1849 to 67,405 cwts., and in 1852 to 73,484 cwts. The exportation of coffee, which in 1842 amounted to 151,837 lbs., has now nearly ceased. Molasses, rum, and cocoa are also important articles of export. In 1851 the total value of exports was \$235,809, and of imports \$290,582. The government is administered by a lieutenant-governor and legislative council. The old French laws are still in force. Revenue \$56,402, and expenditures \$51,048. *Castries*, at the bottom of a fine bay on the north-east side of the island, is the capital. The other chief places are—Vieux-Fort, Laborie, and Port Souffrière. Pidgeon Island, off the north-west coast, is the seat of a military establishment. St. Lucia was settled by the English in 1635, but was subsequently and at various times occupied by the French. In 1803 it was finally ceded to Great Britain.

BARBADOES is the most eastern of the islands. It appears quite detached from the Caribbean chain, being 90 miles eastward of St. Vincent, the nearest island. Length 15, and breadth 10 miles; area 166 square miles. The eastern and northern coasts are belted with coral reefs, which prevent the approach of vessels of more than 50 tons. The open coast on the south and west has been strongly fortified. The surface of the island is comparatively low, and is diversified by gently undulating hills. In the north, however, Mt. Hillaby rises to the height of 1,147 feet. The climate is hot, but not unhealthy. The soils vary considerably, but in the lowlands are very rich. The rock that supplies this soil is a tertiary shell limestone. There are several bituminous springs, some of which furnish a green tar, used as a substitute for pitch

and lamp oil. Destructive hurricanes are frequent. The cultivated crops are sugar-cane, cotton, ginger, etc. The sugar crop of 1850 amounted to 35,076, and of 1851 to 38,730 hogsheads. These, with arrow-root, aloes, etc., form the staples of export. In 1851 the value of exports was \$4,260,609, and of imports \$3,791,889. Tonnage inward 96,381 tons, and outward 93,303; and 34 vessels (1,293 tons) are owned in the colony. The governor of Barbadoes is also superior governor of all the Windward Islands. The legislature comprises the governor, a council, and house of assembly, the latter two elective. Barbadoes is also the see of the Windward diocese. There are in the colony 11 churches and 34 chapels of the establishment, besides those belonging to other denominations. The chief educational establishment is Codrington College; and in 1850 the various schools were attended by 8,852 scholars. The public revenue in 1851 amounted to \$259,506, and the expenditures to \$225,888. *Bridgetown*, the capital, is situate on Carlisle Bay, at the south-west end of the island. This is also the chief shipping port. There are three other towns, called Oistin's, St. James', and Speight's—the first two are little more than hamlets. Speight's Town is a place of considerable importance. The island was settled by the English in 1605, and was the first in these parts colonized by that nation. It is at the present day the most prosperous and progressive of all the British West India colonies.

DOMINICA lies between the French islands of Martinique and Guadalupe, and is 28 miles long, with a mean breadth of 10 miles. Area 274 square miles; population 22,061. The existence of pumice, sulphur, etc., attests its volcanic origin. Surface mountainous—Morne Diabloten, the highest summit, is 5,300 feet above the sea. Valleys fertile, and watered by numerous streams. The island contains abundance of timber. Shores but little indented, and devoid of harbors. The principal products are sugar, molasses, rum, coffee, cocoa, oranges, and cotton. In 1851 the value of exports was \$300,309, and of imports \$344,774. The fisheries off the coast are very productive. The government consists of a lieutenant-governor, council, and assembly of 20 members. Revenue in 1851, \$61,925, and expenditures \$60,587. The principal towns are—*Roseau* or *Charlotte Town*, the capital, on the south-west side, and *Portsmouth*, on Prince Rupert's Bay, on the north-west. Dominica was discovered in 1493, and was claimed alternately by England, France, and Spain, but was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1763.

MONTSERRAT, nearly equidistant (30 miles) from Nevis, Antigua, and Guadalupe, is of an oval form, 10 miles long and about 7 miles wide.

Area 47 square miles ; population 7,653. The east side of the island is mountainous and covered with forests. On the west the land slopes down toward the sea. Sugar, rum, and molasses are the chief products of cultivation. Cotton, arrow-root, and tamarinds are also among its exports. Value of exports in 1851, \$84,710, and of imports \$45,595. Government is administered by a president, council, and house of assembly. Revenue \$16,061, expenditures \$14,751. *Plymouth*, the capital, is on the south-west side of the island. Montserrat was discovered by Columbus in 1493, and in 1632 settled by the English.

ANTIGUA, the chief island of the Leeward group, lies about 48 miles east of St. Christopher, and is about 18 miles long and 9 broad. Area 108 square miles ; population 37,757. The shores are high and rocky, and indented on all sides by harbors, bays, and creeks, and lined on the north and east with a number of small rocky islets. The only elevated land is a range of rocky hills, called the Sheckerly Mountains, which nowhere exceed 1,500 feet in height. There are no rivers on the island, and its springs are brackish. The principal exportable products are sugar, rum, molasses, rice, arrow-root, and tobacco. In 1847 the exports were valued at \$1,774,034, and in 1851 at \$277,070, and the imports of the respective years at \$1,046,390 and \$785,390. The falling off in the exports is attributed to severe drouth. Government is vested in a governor, council, and assembly. The governor is also governor-in-chief of the Leeward Islands. Revenue in 1851, \$103,987, expenditures \$99,086. The diocese of Antigua also includes all the Leeward Islands. *St. John*, the capital, is built on the north-west side of the island, and at the bottom of the bay of the same name, which forms an excellent harbor. English Harbor, on the south side, has a government dock-yard, and is capable of receiving the largest ships. Antigua was discovered by Columbus in 1493, and settled by the English in 1632. The island has suffered severely from earthquakes and hurricanes.

ST. CHRISTOPHER, to the west of Antigua, lies north-west and south-east, 17 miles in length and 6 miles broad, and is separated from Nevis by a strait only a mile and a half wide. Area 68 square miles ; population 23,177. The centre of the island is occupied by rugged, barren mountains, which contain some hot springs. The highest point, called Mount Misery, 3,711 feet above the sea, is an exhausted volcano, the crater of which is still apparent. The soil of the plain is chiefly a dark-gray loam. Sugar is the principal object of cultivation, and of this the crop in 1851 amounted to 7,270 hogsheads. Rum and molasses are also exported. The value of exports in 1851 amounted to \$541,191, and of

imports to \$510,144. The island is governed by a lieutenant-governor, and sends 10 members to the Antigua assembly. The revenue in 1851 amounted to \$94,392, and the expenditures to \$70,426. *Basseterre*, the capital, is situate on the south-side of the island. St. Christopher was discovered by Columbus in 1493, and settled by the English in 1623. In 1782, and again in 1805, it was taken by the French, but not retained. NEVIS, off the south-east extremity of St. Christopher, consists almost entirely of a single conical mountain of volcanic origin, rising with a gentle ascent from the sea to a height of 2,500 feet, and surrounded at the base by a level border of extremely fertile land. Area 21 square miles; population 9,601. Only about one-fourth the surface is capable of cultivation, the high parts being rocky and barren. The exportable products are sugar, rum, and molasses. Exports in 1851, \$112,656, and imports \$79,094. The island is governed by an administrative council and assembly. Revenue in 1850, \$23,821. *Charlestown* is the capital. Nevis was first colonized by the English in 1628.

BARBUDA, 27 miles north of Antigua, is a low, level, and fertile island. It is the private property of the Codrington family, and the only proprietary government in the West Indies. The inhabitants, chiefly colored, are employed in breeding stock and the cultivation of corn, cotton, pepper, indigo, and tobacco. No sugar is grown. The air is so mild and pure that invalids from other islands resort here for the restoration of health.

ANGUILLA is the most northern of the Leeward Islands, and distant about five miles from St. Martin's. It is 16 miles long and 4 broad, but so low and flat that it can not be seen at a great distance. Area 34 square miles; population 3,052. The soil is calcareous and not very productive. In the centre of the island is a saline lake, which yields a large quantity of salt. The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in cattle-breeding and salt-raking, and also cultivate small quantities of sugar, cotton, and tobacco. The island is governed by a magistrate elected by the colonists, but subject to the approval of the governor of Antigua. The town is situate on the east side and near the north-east end of the island; it is a small place, with little trade. Anguilla was settled by the English in 1659. Anguilleta, Dog, and other islets, lie off the coast.

VIRGIN ISLANDS are a group east of Porto Rico, and are severally in the possession of Spain, Great Britain, and Denmark. The islands belonging to the British are Tortola, Virgin Gorda or Penniston, Jos Van Dykes, Guana, Beef, Thatch, Anegada, Nichar, Prickly Pear, Camanas, Ginger, Cooper's, Salt, St. Peter, etc. Area 92 square miles; population 6,689. Throughout these islands a series of precipitous and rugged

mountains and rocks run east and west; and the shores are indented with bays, harbors, and creeks. The principal products are cotton, sugar, molasses, rum, etc. In 1851 the exports were valued at \$13,701, and the imports at \$23,742. The affairs of the island are administered by a lieutenant-governor with a council and assembly. *Tortola*, on the island of the same name, is the capital, and has a magnificent harbor, perfectly land-locked, which in time of war has sheltered 400 vessels waiting for convoy. The Virgins were discovered by Columbus in 1493; settled by the Dutch in 1648, and captured by the English in 1666.

### THE FRENCH ISLANDS.

THE FRENCH WEST INDIES are comprised in the governments of Guadalupe and Martinique. Area 1,013 square miles. Population 276,453.

### THE GUADALOUPE GOVERNMENT.

GUADALOUPE comprises the island so called, the islands of Marie-Galante, Desirade, and Les Saintes, and about two-thirds of the island of St. Martin.

Islands.	Area, sq. m.	Popula. (1849).	Pop. to sq. m.	Chief Places.	Popula.
Guadaloupe .....	529	134,574	254.4	BASSE-TERRE.....	3,876
Marie-Galante .....	59	12,749	216.1	Grandbourg .....	1,200
Desirade .....	17	2,563	151.0	Anse-Galet.....	400
Les Saintes .....	5	1,311	262.5	— .....	—
St. Martin (N. part) .....	21	8,773	179.7	Marigot.....	300
Total .....	631	154,975	245.6		

—of the population about three-fourths the whole are Africans and their descendants, and the remainder French, creoles, and mixed races.

*Guadaloupe*, the largest of the islands, is composed of two divisions or islands, separated by a strait called *Rivière Salée* (Salt River), about 5 miles long and from 30 to 100 yards broad, sufficiently deep for vessels of 60 tons. It is situate in lat.  $16^{\circ}$  north, and long.  $61^{\circ} 30'$  west. The west or larger island is *Guadaloupe Proper*, divided into *Basse-Terre* and *Cabes-Terre*, and is 27 miles long by 15 miles wide. The eastern island, called *Grande-Terre*, is nearly 30 miles long by 10 to 12 broad. *Guadaloupe Proper* is of volcanic formation, and is traversed north and south by a ridge of hills having a medium height of 2,296 feet; and with the culminating points in *La Souffrière*, an active volcano 5,108 feet high, and in *Grosse-Montagne*, *Deux-Mamelles*, and *Piton de Boulleante*, extinct volcanoes. *Grande-Terre*, on the other hand, is generally flat, composed of madrepores and marine detritus, and nowhere rises higher than 115 feet above the sea. *Guadaloupe* has numerous small

streams, running in deeply-cut beds, but becoming dry in summer. The principal are the Goyaves, Lamentin, and Lezarde, which are navigable for canoes. Grande-Terre has only a few springs of brackish, undrinkable water. The climate is hot and unhealthy, and the atmosphere remarkably humid. Hurricanes are frequent and destructive. The soil is fertile and well-cultivated. The mountains are covered with fine forests, and the marshy coast of Basse-Terre with mangroves and manchineel trees. The products natural and cultivated are similar to those of the West Indies generally; but in regard to sugar, the Tahiti cane is the only kind cultivated. The principal anchorages of Guadalupe are—the Bay of Mahault and the roads of Basse-Terre—the latter in the south-west, with the town of the same name, capital of the government, on its shore. Villages are found at short distances along the whole coast. Grande-Terre possesses the anchorages of Moule and Point-à-Pitre. The latter, at the south entrance to the Salt River, is esteemed one of the best in the Antilles, and on it was situate the important town of St. Louis or Point-à-Pitre, which was destroyed by an earthquake on the 8th February, 1843, on which occasion 4,000 of the inhabitants perished.

*Marie-Galante*, 14 miles south-south-east of Guadalupe, is about 12 miles long by 8 miles broad, and is traversed north and south by a range of hills parallel to the east coast, where it presents a front of high and precipitous rocks. The west and north sides of the island are level, and parallel with the former is a narrow lagoon 7 or 8 miles in length, separated from the sea by a low, narrow tract of sand. The island abounds in woods, particularly the wild cinnamon tree. Its principal town, Grandbourg or Basse-Terre, stands near the south-west point; other towns are Les Carmes on the west, and St. Anne on the east shores.

*Desirade* or Deseada lies about four miles east from the south-east extremity of Grande-Terre, and is about 8 miles long by 3 miles wide. It rises from the sea with a steep ascent, and then extends in a table-land, which consists of limestone rocks, in which many caverns occur; but it is without water. The soil in some places is a deep black mold, and fertile—in others it is sandy and unproductive. The only anchorage is at the Anse-Galet, on the east side of the island.

*Les Saintes* are a group of rocky islets, 6 or 7 miles south of Guadalupe, and consist of lofty and steep peaks, some of which are united by flat ground and ridges of inferior elevation; others are separated by the sea. The two largest are called Terre d'en Haut and Terre d'en Bas, or the upper and lower land—the first is about four miles in circuit,

and contains a town or village on its west side. The inhabitants are poor, and live chiefly on fish and vegetables.

*St. Martin*, the northern portion of which belongs to the French, and forms a dependency of Guadaloupe, is a small island immediately south of the British island of Anguilla, in lat.  $18^{\circ} 5'$  north, and long.  $63^{\circ} 6'$  west. The southern portion is held by the Dutch. Its form is nearly that of an equilateral triangle—each side about seven miles in length. Area 33 square miles. It is deeply indented with bays and lagoons, some of which afford good anchorage; and is upon the whole hilly, the highest part being 1,361 feet above the sea. It is watered by several rivulets; and in the south are lagoons from which great quantities of salt are obtained by the Dutch. The climate is remarkably mild and is considered healthy.

The chief cultivated products are sugar, rum, molasses, coffee, and other West India staples. The sugar crop of Guadaloupe amounts to about 60,000 hogsheads annually. The exports for the year ending 31st December, 1851, consisted of—muscovado sugar, 20,048,368 kilogrammes; coffee, 221,218 do.; cotton, 20,443 do.; cocoa, 11,425 do.; cassia, 165 do.; molasses, 13,879 litres; and rum, 142,139 litres, etc. The trade is chiefly with France. The products and commerce of the dependent islands are similar, but on a smaller scale. A considerable quantity of fish is taken in the neighboring seas.

For administrative purposes Guadaloupe and its dependencies are divided into three arrondissements, and these again into cantons and communes. The government consists of a governor, assisted by a privy council of six members, and a colonial council of 30 members, the latter elected by the landowners and tax-payers. Justice is administered by a superior court and two courts of assize. The colonial council elects two delegates to represent the people in the home colonial council. Local affairs are administered by municipal councils.

Guadaloupe was discovered by Columbus in 1493. In 1635 the French settled upon the island and kept it until 1759, when it was taken by the English. It was subsequently and at various times captured and recaptured by these nations, and finally ceded to France in 1814. Its immediate dependencies of course shared the fate of the central island. The island of St. Martin was settled by the French and Dutch in 1638; but these were expelled by the Spaniards, who themselves abandoned the island in 1750; and the original settlers resumed possession.

## THE MARTINIQUE GOVERNMENT.

MARTINIQUE, the government of which covers the island of the same name, lies in lat.  $14^{\circ} 45'$  north, and long.  $61^{\circ} 10'$  west, and about 20 miles north of St. Lucia. It is of irregular form, high and rocky, about 45 miles long and from 10 to 15 miles wide. Area 382 square miles. There are six extinct volcanoes on the island, and one of the craters is of large dimensions. The loftiest summit, Mont Pelée, is 4,450 feet above the sea. Extensive masses of volcanic rocks cover the interior. rise to a great elevation, and extend from the mountains to the shores, where they form numerous deep indentations along the coast. Between the volcanic rocks broad, irregular valleys of great fertility occur. Those on the west side, called Basse-Terre, are more extensive, fertile, and level than those on the east side, called Cabes-Terre. The climate is hot, but not unhealthy, being tempered by regular breezes. Hurricanes and earthquakes are not unfrequent. About two-fifths of the surface are under cultivation, the remainder being covered with trees or occupied by naked rocks or disintegrated pumice. The mountain slopes are for the most part covered with primeval forests, in other parts the slopes are cultivated to the height of 400 feet. Numerous streams flow down from the height, most of them mere rivulets; but a few of them are navigable for boats a short distance from their mouths, and are used for the conveyance of produce to the shipping. For administrative purposes the island is divided into two arrondissements, 14 cantons, and 26 communes. Government is conducted by a governor and privy council of 7 members; and the colonial council consists of 30 members. The population in 1849 numbered 121,478 souls. The principal productions are sugar, coffee, cocoa, etc. The exports for the year ending 31st December, 1851, consisted of—sugar, muscovado, 23,406,696, and clayed, 809 kilogrammes; coffee, 110,933 do.; cocoa, 149,033 do.; cassia, 163,580 do.; logwood, 50,200 do.; molasses, 33,754 litres; and rum, 2,064,511 litres. The island has several good harbors, the best of which is Port Royal, on the south-west side. The principal town is St. Pierre, on the north-west; and there are villages on every part of the coasts. The island was discovered by Columbus in 1493, and in 1635 was settled by the French. In 1794 it was captured by the English, and restored in 1802; and was subsequently, between 1809 and 1814, held by the English, who at the close of the war again released it to France.

## THE DUTCH ISLANDS.

THE colonial possessions of the Netherlands in the West Indies comprise the islands of Curaçoa, Bonaire, Aruba, etc., lying off the coast of Venezuela, and St. Eustatius and Saba, and part of the island of St. Martin, among the Leeward Islands. These are as follows :

Islands.	Area, sq. m.	Population.			Pop. to sq. m.	Chief Places.
		Free.	Slave.	Total.		
Curaçoa .....	138	11,225	5,573	16,798	121.7	WILHELMSTADT.
Bonaire .....	83	1,478	742	2,220	26.7	Village in S. W. side.
Aruba .....	23	2,443	602	3,045	132.4	Fort Zoutman.
St. Eustatius .....	97	782	1,150	1,932	19.9	St. Eustatius.
Saba .....	16	1,014	649	1,663	108.9	Landing on south side.
St. Martin (S. part)	12	1,227	1,612	2,839	236.6	—
Totals.....	369	18,169	10,328	28,497	77.2	

—of the total population 8,595 are Protestants, 19,072 Roman Catholics, and 837 Jews; the Roman Catholics preponderate in Curaçoa, Bonaire, and Aruba, and the Protestants in St. Eustatius, Saba, and St. Martin. The Jews are almost exclusively (829) found in Curaçoa.

## ISLANDS OFF THE VENEZUELAN COAST.

*Curaçoa* is situate 46 miles north of the coast of Venezuela, and in lat.  $12^{\circ} 15'$  north, and long.  $69^{\circ}$  west. It is about 30 miles long by 6 miles broad, rising wild, bare, and abrupt, and consists of two ridges of green-stone, connected by a limestone dyke a mile and a half thick. Iron and copper occur, but are not wrought. Both the atmosphere and soil are dry, but the heat tempered by the sea-breeze. Indigo, cotton, and cocoa, once cultivated, are now abandoned; and the people depend either on the rearing of cattle and other stock, or on the salt which is produced here in great abundance. Small quantities of sugar and tobacco are also produced. The opuntia, among other cacti, grows on the island and feeds the cochineal insect, to which increasing attention is paid. Many fruits are cultivated—tamarinds, bananas, oranges, and the lime; from the last named the famed Curaçoa liqueur is made. The shores teem with magnificent lobsters, crabs, and shell-fish; and the seas furnish plenty of excellent fish. Sea and land turtle abound. Salt, however, is the great staple, and of this about 250,000 barrels are exported annually. In 1851 the number of vessels entered was 605, the cargoes of which were valued at between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 florins. The principal harbor, Santa Anna, is on the south-west side of the island. The entrance is very narrow—on the eastern side of it is Fort Amsterdam, and on the opposite side of the harbor is the town of Curaçoa or Wilhelm-

stadt, said to be one of the handsomest in the West Indies. Curaçoa was settled by the Spaniards early in the sixteenth century. It was captured in 1632 by the Dutch, and in 1798 by the English. The peace of Amiens restored it to the Dutch. The British again took it in 1806, and finally ceded it to the Netherlands in 1814.

*Bonaire* (Buen-Ayre), 27 miles north-east of Curaçoa, is about 18 miles long and from 4 to 5 broad. It is of very irregular shape, high, and hilly, chiefly composed of calcareous deposits, but in some places of pure quartz, and is thickly wooded. The soil is hard and dry, suffering from deficiency of rain, yet not without excellent pastures. On the south coast the land is covered with low knolls clothed with verdant creepers and cacti, which yield considerable cochineal. The hillsides are covered with forests of Brazil and yellow-wood, but there are no fruit-bearing trees. Large quantities of salt are produced. The roadstead is on the south-west side. In 1851 the number of vessels entered was 265 (160 in ballast), and there was exported 68,449 barrels of salt. The island is chiefly used as a penal dépôt by the Dutch West India authorities.

*Aruba* (Oruba), 50 miles west by north of Curaçoa is about 8 miles long and 2 miles broad, and is surrounded by rocks, and difficult of approach. The surface is generally stony, though in some parts flat and sandy, and notwithstanding the want of water there are some good meadows. Excellent iron ore and a little gold are found; but the chief occupation is cattle raising. In 1851 the trade of the island occupied 65 vessels.

*Curaçoa Chica*, the *Bird Islands*, etc., also belong to the Dutch, but are not inhabited. The latter is a small group south-east of Bonaire.

#### ISLANDS OF THE LEEWARD GROUP.

*St. Eustatius* is situate 11 miles north-west of St. Christopher, in lat.  $17^{\circ} 32'$  north, and long.  $63^{\circ} 5'$  west, and is scarcely 30 miles in circumference. There are two hills—Punch Bowl Hill and Signal Hill, the latter an extinct volcano; between is a deep valley, forming the interior of the island. The level parts are covered with cane fields and provision grounds. Game is plentiful, and is exported to other islands. The commerce of the island, which was formerly large, is now almost extinct, and its population, which in 1780 numbered 25,000, is reduced to a few hundreds. The town, divided into the upper and lower town, lies on a level piece of ground on the south-west side of the island. The roadstead is open and unprotected, but has good anchorage in certain winds.

*Saba* lies about 15 miles west-north-west from the north point of St. Eustatius. It rises abruptly from the sea, and is inaccessible except

upon the south side, where are a little creek and landing-place. The island is inhabited by a few Dutch families, who cultivate the cotton plant and manufacture stockings, shoes, etc.

*St. Martin*, of which the Dutch possess the southern portion, has been already described. In 1851 salt to the amount of 148,525 barrels was obtained, and the arrivals and clearances amounted to 334 vessels.

These six islands and their dependencies form a single government, the seat of which is Wilhelmstadt, on the island of Curaçoa. The administration of affairs is vested in a governor-general and a colonial council. The president and vice-president of the council are chosen by the governor. The receipts and expenditures in 1851 were as follows:

	Curacao, Bonaire, Aruba, etc.	St. Eustatius.	St. Martin and Saba.	Total.
Receipts .....	198,944 florins....	6,321 florins....	35,225 florins....	240,490 florins.
Expenditures.....	398,625     "     ....	28,144     "     ....	40,294     "     ....	467,078     "

—the deficiencies being made up by the home government. The military garrisons collectively at the close of 1850 consisted of 14 officers, and 408 soldiers. St. Martin had also a squadron of citizen cavalry.

### THE DANISH ISLANDS.

THE West India possessions of Denmark—St. Thomas, Santa Cruz, and St. John, with their dependencies, belong to the Virgin group, and lie centrally in lat.  $18^{\circ}$  north, and long.  $64^{\circ} 30'$  west. The extent, population, etc., of these are as follows:

Islands.	Area, sq. m.	Popula. (1850).	Pop. sq. m.	Chief Towns.	Popula.
St. Thomas.....	27	13,666	506.2	Charlotte-Amalia....	12,383
Santa Cruz.....	78	23,729	304.2	CHRISTIANSTADT.....	6,127
St. John (Jan.).....	22	2,228	101.3	Christiansborg .....	136
Total .....	127	39,623	812.0		

—in St. Thomas about a third and in Santa Cruz and St. John about three-fourths of the inhabitants are blacks.

*St. Thomas* lies about 38 miles east of Porto Rico, and in lat.  $18^{\circ} 20'$  north, and long.  $64^{\circ} 55'$  west. The greatest length, east and west, is 12 miles, and the average breadth less than 3 miles. It has a rugged and elevated surface, which attains its greatest height toward the centre, and descends sometimes gradually, but oftener abruptly to the shore. It was once well-wooded, but is now almost bare, and from this cause suffers much from a deficiency of rain; nor is its soil fertile. The area under crop is only about 2,500 acres, of which nearly one-half are planted with sugar-cane. A large number of islets and keys lie around its shores. The island enjoys the privileges of a free harbor, and its trade is consequently very extensive. The harbor and town (Charlotte-Ama-

lia) lie about midway of the island, on the south side. The anchorage is very extensive and secure, and the opening seaward is only 1,030 yards wide. The town lies around the north side of the harbor, and contains many substantial stores and dwellings. Here centres a large trade fostered by the freedom of the port. At present the value of goods imported into St. Thomas may be set down at \$5,000,000 ; probably half of which are brought from England, a fifth from the United States and British America, and the rest from France, Hamburg, Altona, Flensburg, Bremen, Holland, etc. It is estimated that two-fifths of these imports are sent to Porto Rico, and the remaining three-fifths to Santo Domingo, Cuba, Venezuela, New Granada, Curaçoa, and the Windward Islands. In 1850 there arrived 2,196 vessels (235,843 tons) : this does not include the British mail steamers, the tonnage of which entering amounts to about 42,000 tons annually. St. Thomas was settled by the Danish West India and Guinea Company in 1671. In 1775 the Company's rights were conveyed to the king, who in 1764 threw open the port to vessels of all nations. This policy, and the general neutrality observed by Denmark in the wars of Europe, concurred in fostering its commerce, although much is due to its admirable geographical position ; and accordingly it became a chief market, and in time of war the only channel through which the products of all the West India colonies could be safely conveyed. A short interruption to its prosperity occurred in 1801, when the island was given up to the British, who held it however for only 10 months. Early in 1802 it was restored to Denmark, and resumed all its former activity. In 1804 and again in 1806 immense losses in merchandise and other property were occasioned by fires in the town. In 1807 St. Thomas was again, by capitulation, transferred to Great Britain, and retained until April, 1815, when the Danes once more became masters of the island.

*Santa Cruz* is the largest and most southern of the Virgin group, and lies about 65 miles east-south-east from Porto Rico, in lat.  $17^{\circ} 42'$  north, and long.  $64^{\circ} 48'$  west. The island has its greatest length east and west, about 20 miles, and varies in breadth from 2 to 6 miles. It is generally flat, though a range of low heights follows the line of the north shore, and is well watered and fertile. The climate is at all times unhealthy ; and hurricanes and earthquakes are frequent. About two-fifths of the island are in sugar-cane plantations, and about one-half is occupied with general crops, only a small portion remaining uncultivated. The soil is not very rich, but tolerably fertile, yet owing to droughts the crops are uncertain. On this account the sugar crop varies from 12,000

to 40,000 hogsheads. The cultivation of coffee, indigo, and cotton has been generally abandoned for many years. Christianstadt and Frederickstadt are the principal towns—the first on the north and the latter on the west of the island. *Christianstadt* is the capital and residence of the governor-general. Its harbor is encumbered with many shoals, and difficult of access. On the whole the island is far less eligible for commerce than St. Thomas, but in resources more important. Santa Cruz was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage. In 1643 the Dutch made a settlement on it, but three years later were expelled by the English. In 1650 the English were in their turn dislodged by the Spaniards, who laid the island waste. In 1651 it was purchased for the Knights of Malta, who sold it in 1664 to the French West India Company, and in 1696 the Company's claims were sold to the Danes. From this period it followed the fortunes of St. Thomas.

*St. John* or *St. Jan* is situate about 24 miles east from St. Thomas, in lat.  $18^{\circ} 18'$  north, and long.  $64^{\circ} 49'$  west. It is about 12 miles long by 4 miles broad, rising to a considerable height in the centre, and having generally a very broken, uneven surface. The soil is indifferent, and water scarce; sugar and cotton are produced in small quantities, and live-stock is also reared. On the south-east side a promontory forms two coves, which are defended by a fort on the north point of the entrance, and another on Duck Island, close to the south point. This promontory has a town called Christiansborg or the castle. The anchorage is good. St. John in its history is intimately connected with St. Thomas, and has generally belonged to the same masters.

These three islands, St. Thomas, Santa Cruz, and St. John, with their dependencies, form together a single general government, and are governed as crown colonies by an appointee of the king of Denmark, who resides at Christianstadt, on the island of Santa Cruz. The governor is assisted by two councilors; and in each island there is a burgher council, which has cognizance over all purely municipal affairs. Justice is administered according to the code of Charles V., together with the rescripts of the crown, which constitute the law. The general revenue for the year ending 31st March, 1851, amounted to \$286,782; that of Santa Cruz to \$168,950, and that of St. Thomas and St. John to \$117,832. The aggregate expenditures for the three islands amounted to \$335,444. The municipal revenues are separate, and are administered by the councils. The king derives a revenue, which does not appear in the above summary, from the large number of the estates which he holds in the islands.

## THE SWEDISH ISLAND.

THE only colonial possession of Sweden in the West Indies is the island of St. Bartholomew. This island belongs to the Leeward group, and is situate centrally in lat.  $17^{\circ} 50'$  north, and long.  $62^{\circ} 52'$  west, distant 12 miles from St. Martin and about 30 from St. Christopher. It is about 8 miles long by from 2 to 3 miles wide, and contains an area of 25 square miles. St. Bartholomew is of an irregular shape, and deeply indented by numerous small sandy bays, separated by bold and steep rocky acclivities of moderate height. In the interior it is hilly, but its loftiest elevations nowhere exceed 1,000 feet above the sea. In most parts it is barren, but has numerous well-cultivated valleys. The population is estimated at about 8,000 or 9,000, of which about 7,000 are blacks and colored persons. Of the whites, nearly one-half are of Irish descent, and the remainder chiefly of French extraction. The affairs of the island are administered by a royal governor. The only harbor is La Carenage, a safe and commodious one, and much frequented. It is on the west side of the island. Close by it is Gustavia, the principal town, a thriving place, and having considerable commerce with the neighboring islands. St. Bartholomew was first settled in 1648 by the French. In 1689 it was taken by the English under Admiral Thornhill; but in 1697 was restored to France. In 1746 it was again taken by the English, and was once more given up under the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1785 it was finally ceded by France to Sweden, and has since continued subject to that power.

## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE WEST INDIES.

States and Colonies.	Area, sq. m.	Popula.	Pop. to sq. m.	Capitals.
Dominican Republic .....	17,609	136,500	7.7	Santo Domingo.
Hayti, Empire of .....	10,081	572,000	56.7	Cape Haytian.
Spanish Colonies .....	51,143	1,462,060	27.6	Habana.
British Colonies .....	15,759	835,344	53.2	Spanish Town.
French Colonies.....	1,013	276,453	276.3	Port Royal.
Dutch Colonies.....	369	28,497	77.2	Wilhelmsstadt.
Danish Colonies .....	127	39,623	312.0	Christianstadt.
Swedish Colonies.....	25	9,000	360.0	Gustavia.
Total .....	96,126	3,859,477	34.9	

—from the above account are omitted all the islands belonging to the neighboring states, and a large number of islands, etc., not inhabited. With these it is assumed that the aggregate area of the West Indies would amount to 150,000 square miles, and the population to 3,500,000.

## THE BERMUDAS OR SOMERS' ISLANDS.

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THE BERMUDAS, a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean, 580 miles south-east of Cape Hatteras, in North Carolina, and between latitudes  $32^{\circ} 14'$  and  $32^{\circ} 25'$  north, and longitudes  $64^{\circ} 38'$  and  $64^{\circ} 52'$  west from Greenwich, or  $12^{\circ} 10'$  and  $12^{\circ} 24'$  east from Washington, constitute an important colony and naval station of Great Britain. They lie south-west to north-east, based on the edge of a bank stretching in the same direction 23 by 13 miles, but occupy only a space of about 18 by 6 miles, though said to be about 365 in number. Area 19.4 square miles.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—Viewed from the sea, the Bermudas appear to have but a trifling elevation compared with the bold and lofty aspect of many of the West India Islands. The highest land, indeed, does not exceed 200 feet above the sea-level, and the surface is very irregular. The principal islands (St. George's, Ireland, St. David's, Somerset, Paget, Longbird, and Smith's), together with the minor islands, lie in such a manner as to form several capacious and deep bays, which, however, are difficult of ingress or egress. The island of St. George's, the military station of the colony, about three miles long and at no part exceeding half a mile wide, lies at the entrance of the only passage for ships of burden. The harbor, the entrance to which is narrow, is said to be one of the finest in the world, and is completely land-locked. The naval dock-yard is situated at the west end of Ireland Island, and distant about 15 miles from St. George's. This island is about one mile in length, and perhaps a quarter broad, and is nearly all occupied by the public buildings. Boaz Island, connected with this by a bridge completed in 1849, is the site of the convict establishment. These islands are all strongly fortified, and where not, the reefs and rocks that lie in their neighborhood certainly do away with the necessity of artificial works. The Bermudas are, in fact, the Gibraltar of the West Indies. On three sides, north, west, and south, they are inclosed by formidable coral reefs and rocks, nearly all under water, and extending in some parts 10 miles from the islands—the only reefs of this description occurring in the whole expanse of the ocean.

CLIMATE, SOIL, ETC.—The climate of these islands is delightful, a perpetual spring clothing the fields and trees in perpetual verdure. Severe thunder-storms, however, frequently occur; and when the south wind

prevails, the atmosphere becomes charged with excessive humidity. The soil is generally of a reddish brown color, and in some places, as at Ireland Island, bearing strong marks of oxide of iron. Round the coasts there are some districts with a strong tenacious blue clay; in others a micaceous kneadable brick earth, and again an argillaceous soil with luxuriant pasturage. The cedar grows to a great height, and would seem in many parts to spring from the bare rock. The palmetto is also indigenous; and all the fruits and vegetables of the tropics thrive well.

**CIVIL DIVISIONS, ETC.**—The Bermudas are divided into nine parishes, the extent and population of which are as follows :

Parishes,	Area, acres.	1826.	1836.	1843.	1851.
St. George's .....	1,580.....	1,101.....	1,473.....	1,607.....	1,891
Hamilton.....	1,651.....	751.....	855.....	991.....	1,094
Smith's.....	1,281.....	484.....	459.....	442.....	514
Devonshire.....	1,281.....	594.....	622.....	729.....	784
Pembroke.....	1,281.....	1,656.....	1,691.....	2,079.....	2,235
Paget's.....	1,281.....	950.....	789.....	857.....	1,088
Warwick.....	1,281.....	932.....	944.....	895.....	983
Southampton .....	1,281.....	812.....	768.....	888.....	917
Sandys .....	1,507.....	1,221.....	1,261.....	1,482.....	1,636
Total .....	12,424.....	8,470.....	8,862.....	9,930.....	11,092

—of the population of 1851, the whites numbered 4,669—1,965 males, and 2,704 females; and the colored 6,423—2,832 males, and 3,591 females. Neither the military nor the convicts are included.

**INDUSTRY.**—The labor of the inhabitants is employed chiefly in agriculture, commerce, and the fisheries. The agricultural crops in 1850 consisted of—sweet potatoes, 24,322 bushels; Irish potatoes, 24,946 bushels; carrots, 4,346 bushels; turnips, 7,420 bushels; onions, 838,070 pounds; garden vegetables, 256,136 pounds; tomatoes, 19,120 pounds; arrow-root, 854,329 pounds; Indian corn, 924 bushels; and barley, 269 bushels, etc. The quantity of live-stock maintained is small, and dairy produce sufficient only for the wants of the inhabitants. In 1851 the colony contained 259 horses, 5 mules, 31 asses, 1,643 horned cattle, and 227 sheep. Domestic fowls are abundant, especially ducks; and during the summer numbers of turtle are taken. The adjoining seas are stored with various kinds of fish; and whales are occasionally taken between March and June. Many small cedar vessels are built here; and another important branch of industry is the plaiting of straw and mid-rib of the palmetto. The principal articles of export are arrow-root, potatoes, and onions. The value of imports for the year ending 5th January, 1851, was \$626,400, and of exports \$95,808. The colony owned 42 vessels, having a burden of 2,952 tons. The imports are chiefly supplies for the army and naval forces stationed here, and for the convict establishment

on Boaz Island. Regular steam navigation is kept up between the Bermudas, Halifax, N. S., New York, and the West Indies.

**GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, ETC.**—The Legislature consists of a governor, council, and assembly. The Council is composed of eight members and a president, nominated by the governor; and the House of Assembly of 36 members, returned by the nine tribes or parishes into which the island is divided. The revenue for 1850 amounted to \$60,624, and the expenditures to \$77,889; a parliamentary grant of \$19,435, more than covering the deficit. The military expenditure was \$336,768. The islands contain 9 churches, and 5 chapels for dissenters; and with regard to the inhabitants, 9,332 are members of the Church of England, 519 Presbyterians, 1,018 Wesleyan Methodists, 109 Roman Catholics, and 113 other religions. There are 24 public or free schools, principally supported by different societies in England and by funds under the control of the bishop of Nova Scotia, in whose diocese the Bermudas are included; and besides these there are 25 private schools. The number of convicts at the dépôts in 1850 was 1,566, and the cost of their maintenance for the year \$166,056.

**PUBLIC WORKS.**—A small dock-yard, formerly maintained at St. George's, has been removed to Ireland Island, on which large sums have been expended in order to render it a strong post for a naval and military dépôt. Between 1838 and 1848 there was spent in the public works upward of \$1,440,000, of which \$753,600 was for a breakwater. The works include a steam-factory, a victualing office, store-houses, hospitals, workmen's dwellings, etc. Besides those named, defensive works have been constructed on St. George's, Main, Boaz, and Ireland islands, the cost of which has been upward of \$720,000; and a causeway, constructed by convict labor, has been built to connect Walsingham and Longbird islands. The ship channels have also been improved.

**TOWNS.**—There are in the Bermudas two towns, each of which has its mayor and civic officers—St. George's, on the island of that name, and Hamilton, on Bermuda Island. Both towns are well-built, of white stone. *St. George's*, which is the capital, is the finer of the two, and contains a new government-house, jail, lunatic asylum, etc. There are also several settlements or villages.

**HISTORY.**—In 1593 there was wrecked on these islands a French ship, on board of which was one Henry May, who afterward wrote an account of the Bermudas in English. In 1609 Sir George Somers was driven on the islands in the course of a voyage to Virginia; and on this account the Virginia Company claimed them, and sold their right to a company of

120 persons, who, having obtained a charter from the king in 1612, sent out 60 settlers with a governor. The colony settled on George's Island. In 1619, the islands having become famous for their beauty and salubrity, many of the nobility purchased plantations, and their cultivation was much encouraged. The number of white inhabitants at this time amounted to about 1,000. On the 1st August, 1620, the General Assembly was instituted, and for many years hence the islands prospered. During the civil wars many persons of character and opulence took refuge in the Bermudas, and the population rapidly increased, and is supposed to have been about 10,000. These islands have always remained in possession of the British, though toward the close of the American Revolution, Washington had an eye to their capture to make them a station for war vessels for the annoyance of the West India trade, as the islands lie in the homeward-bound track. At the present time their chief importance is their fine location and adaptedness for military purposes.

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## THE COLONY OF BELIZE;

OR,

## BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS lies between latitudes  $15^{\circ} 54'$  and  $18^{\circ} 30'$  north, and longitudes  $87^{\circ} 56'$  and  $90^{\circ} 12'$  west from Greenwich, or  $10^{\circ} 54'$  and  $13^{\circ} 10'$  from Washington. It is separated from Yucatan by the Rio Hondo, and its southern boundary is formed by the Sarstoon, which falls into the Gulf of Honduras. Length, north and south, about 175 miles, and breadth, east and west, about 112 miles; area, 18,600 square miles.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION.**—Excepting the rivers forming the boundaries north and south, the only others of consequence are the Belize, which traverses the territory from south-west to north-east, dividing it into two somewhat equal parts, and the New River, which, rising in New River Lake, flows in a course nearly parallel to the Belize, till it reaches the

Caribbean Sea, a few miles south of the Hondo. The rivers are navigable for 20 to 30 miles from their mouths, but higher up are interrupted by rapids and falls. The country north of the Belize, and traversed by the New River, is low and level, and toward the coast swampy, and interspersed with several lakes. East of the New River, however, is a range of hills stretching from north-east to south-west, and joining on to the mountains of Guatemala. South of the Belize the country, though also swampy on the coast, rises inland much more rapidly, and may be generally described as mountainous. It is intersected by a ridge parallel to that of the New River, and also connecting with the Guatemala system of mountains—the east part, both north and south of this ridge, being covered by its lateral branches. The mountains and the wide valleys between them are clothed with extensive forests of the finest timber, including cedars, pines, ironwood, logwood, braziletto, mahogany, and cabbage and silk-cotton trees. The shores are lined with numerous islands or coral keys, and covered with cocoa-nut trees and bushes. The largest are Ambergris Key, toward the north, and Turneff, opposite the town of Belize. These two keys consist of clusters of several small islands, divided by narrow creeks and lagoons. The shores of the continent are rocky, but low, except toward the south, where they are higher, and intersected by ravines.

**CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTS, ETC.**—The climate, especially during the wet season, is considered more favorable to health than that of any of the West India Islands. The mean annual temperature is about 80° Fahr., but the heat is seldom oppressive from the beginning of July to the beginning of April, being tempered by refreshing sea-breezes; but during April, May, and June it is excessive, though mitigated occasionally by violent thunder-storms. The most rainy months are July, August, and September. The cultivable portions of the soil are extremely fertile, producing readily all kinds of tropical vegetation, of which plantains, yams, mandioca, and Indian corn are grown, and also arrow-root and rice to a small extent. Sugar, coffee, cotton, and indigo might also be raised, but are neglected. Sarsaparilla is collected in the southern districts. The wild animals are those usual to tropical America—ounces, panthers, tapirs, deer, peccaries, agouties, armadilloes, and monkeys. Manatis and alligators frequent the lagoons; birds, aquatic and land, abound, and fish, turtle, lobsters, and shell-fish are plentiful and of excellent quality. The minerals of the country are as yet unsought; but as gold has been found in the beds of the rivers, there seems to be no question of its existence in the mountains. Iron, copper, etc., are said to be abundant.

POPULATION, INDUSTRY, ETC.—According to the statements of 1845, the colony contained 10,709 inhabitants, viz., whites 399—males 240, and females 159 ; and colored 10,410—males 6,755, and females 2,655. The negroes were originally brought into the country as slaves, but have long since obtained their freedom. The white inhabitants are exclusively occupied in commerce, and the negroes in cutting mahogany and dye-woods and in fishing. A few of them cultivate small patches of ground. Cattle, sheep, and goats are kept, but are not sufficiently numerous, and the deficiency is supplemented from Trujillo and Omoa. The exports in 1847 consisted of 6,502,777 feet mahogany—the staple article of the country, 10,337 feet cedar, 3,223 tons logwood, 206 tons rosewood, 5,684 seroons cochineal, 611 seroons indigo, 53,689 pounds sarsaparilla, 1,299 hides, 45 pounds tortoise-shell, with small quantities of lignum-vitæ and tobacco. The chief imports from the United Kingdom are dry goods and fancy articles for the Belize and Spanish America markets ; wine, spirits, gunpowder, and occasionally provisions ; and from the United States provisions, shingles, and sawed lumber.

GOVERNMENT, ETC.—The government is administered by a superintendent nominated by the crown, and seven magistrates who form a council, and are elected annually by the inhabitants. The supreme judicial authority resides in a supreme court ; and there are several inferior courts. The laws of England are generally applicable throughout the colony. Education claims a fair share of consideration, and there are good schools in Belize open to all classes. The colony, formerly subsidiary to Jamaica, has lately been constituted a separate government.

CAPITAL.—*Belize*, the capital, is the only town in the colony, and is situate at the mouth of the river of the same name, which is here crossed by a substantial wooden bridge. Lat.  $17^{\circ} 29' 18''$  north, and long.  $88^{\circ} 12'$  west. It consists of a long street, running parallel to the sea-shore, from which three or four streets diverge. The houses are constructed entirely of wood, and are raised 8 or 10 feet from the ground on pillars of mahogany, and are well-built, spacious, and convenient. The town seems almost entirely inhabited by blacks. They are described by Stephens as a fine-looking race, tall, straight, and athletic, and well-dressed—the men in white cotton shirts and trowsers, with straw hats, and the women in white short-sleeved frocks and adorned with ear-rings and necklaces. During the dry season fresh water is very scarce here, and, indeed, throughout the settlement, there being no rivulets, and the water of the river being brackish for several miles above the town. The consequence is that the inhabitants at this season are compelled to have recourse to

wells about three feet in depth, from which they procure a muddy, brackish, and fetid water, injurious to health, and productive of a variety of disorders. Efforts are now being made to remedy the evil both by the government and the European public at Belize; and considerable sums have already been expended in sinking wells. An iron market-house has recently been erected in the town, costing about \$20,000. There are also a public hospital, a dispensary for the relief of the poor, an asylum for lunatics, and a grammar-school, conducted on the Madras system, and which was attended in 1847 by 102 pupils. This school, which is entirely supported by government, has likewise a female department. A savings' bank has also been established under guarantee of the local legislature. The Baptists and Wesleyans have chapels here with schools connected, the former one and the latter two. There are five judicial courts in Belize—the court of ordinary, and the supreme, grand, summary, and police courts. It is also the seat of the Honduras Legislature. The anchorage in front of the town is excellent, being protected from the heavy swells of the open sea by numerous quays, but is adapted for vessels of moderate size only. Population about 3,000. At *Punta Grande*, about 150 miles south of Belize, there is a settlement of Caribs numbering about 500 souls. They were formerly natives of the sea-coast below Trujillo, but having taken part against Morazan, they fled to this place for safety.

HISTORY.—Belize, called also British Honduras, is geographically a part of the peninsula of Yucatan. It was transferred by Spain to England by treaty, in 1670, but at different times its occupation was contested by the Spaniards till 1798, since which period it has remained quietly in the possession of Great Britain. The settlement is said to have obtained its name from a noted buccaneer called Wallace, by whom it was first discovered. The name was written *Waliz* by the Spaniards, and subsequently further corrupted into Balize or Belize, as it now stands.

#### THE COLONY OF THE BAY ISLANDS.

THE BAY ISLANDS consist of a group situate in the Bay of Honduras, and are severally known as Roatan, Bonaca, Utila, Barbarat, Helene, and Morat. Geographically they belong to the State of Honduras, being located immediately on its coast, and only about 20 or 30 miles north of Trujillo, its principal port, and until lately have been in its actual possession politically.

ROATAN, the largest of the islands, is 30 miles long and 9 miles broad, has

a fine soil, healthful climate, a plentiful supply of good water, and, furthermore, two excellent harbors, each capable of containing a fleet. It may be considered, says Alcedo, as the key of the Bay of Honduras, and the focus of the trade of the neighboring countries. This beautiful island, says MacGregor, has an excellent harbor, easily defended, and is well adapted to the culture of cotton, coffee, and other tropical products; and, Capt. Mitchell says, the local position of the island seems one of importance in a commercial, and, perhaps, in a political point of view. It is the only place where good harbors are found on an extensive and dangerous coast. Near this island are the others above referred to, and which together have an area estimated at about 600 square miles.

**HISTORY.**—On the 17th July, 1852, the superintendent of Belize, in the name of the queen, proclaimed these islands to constitute and be a British colony, to be known and designated as the Colony of the Bay Islands; and thus Honduras, after a series of aggressions, was virtually despoiled of its legitimate territory. The main points in their antecedent history are these: Bonaca, then called Guanaja, was discovered in 1502 by Columbus, who took possession of it on behalf of Spain, and in like manner he took possession of Roatan. Spain remained in undisputed occupancy until the days of the buccaneers; and it can readily be supposed that Roatan, with its safe and excellent harbor, fine climate, and abundant supplies, could not long escape the attention of these rovers. A descent was made on it in 1642 by this fraternity, and at the same time Bonaca and the neighboring islands were captured. These positions, says the historian Juarros, were exceedingly advantageous to them, and proportionately injurious to the Spaniards, because, being near the mainland, the English (buccaneers) were enabled to make their descents whenever they pleased, and with equal facility intercept the commerce between the kingdom of Guatemala and Spain. The annoyance from this source finally became so serious that an expedition from Havana was fitted out to expel them from this stronghold. The expedition consisted of four ships of war under Villalva y Toledo, who endeavored to surprise the buccaneers, but finding the harbors fortified, steered for the main for reinforcements. He subsequently returned, and in the month of March, 1650, after some hard fighting, succeeded in driving them from the island. The Spanish regained possession only to find it a waste. The few natives that the buccaneers had spared and reduced to slavery were too fearful of their return to remain, and emigrated to the main, where the government allotted them lands. The island, thus abandoned, seems to have remained deserted until 1742, when the English enter-

tained and attempted the project of obtaining possession of the whole of the Atlantic coast of Central America. In furtherance of this plan they forcibly seized upon several important points of the mainland, captured Trujillo, and erected forts at the mouth of Black River. They also occupied Roatan, and fortified it with materials carried off from Honduras. These events, in conjunction with others, led to a war with Spain, which lasted until 1763, when a treaty was concluded, the 17th article of which provided that all fortifications erected by the British in the Bay of Honduras should be demolished within four months, etc. The forts at Black River and other places were accordingly evacuated in 1664; but in violation of the treaty the occupation of Roatan was continued. In 1780 Spain again declared war against England, and the authorities of Guatemala succeeded in expelling the English. The treaty of peace of 1783, with a special reference to these islands, provided not only that the English should abandon the continent (except Belize), but all islands whatever depending on it; and in the supplemental treaty of 1786 it was provided that the English should "evacuate the country of the Mosquitos, as well as the continent in general and the islands adjacent, without exception. Not finding any means of evading this provision, England did really abandon, not only these islands, but the whole coast. The provisions of this treaty were suspended by the war of 1796, when England, still hankering after these valuable islands, again occupied them, and constituted them the penal settlements of the much injured natives whom their cruel rapacity had spared in St. Vincent and the other Leeward Islands. Two thousand of these were located upon Roatan, but as soon as the invasion became known in the capital of Guatemala, their subjugation was ordered. Accordingly an expedition was sent to the island, which, on the 17th May, 1797, quietly surrendered. This seems to have been the final attempt of the English during this century forcibly to seize upon these islands, which thenceforward remained in the undisputed possession of the Spanish crown. A new treaty was made Aug. 28th, 1814, into which the stringent provisions of the treaty of 1786 were incorporated, word for word; and this last was in full force when the Central American provinces threw off their allegiance to Spain. Up to that time, therefore, England had acquired no shadow of a title to these islands. Passing from Spain they naturally lapsed to the republican authorities of the new government, and all the rights of sovereignty belonged to it alone. This state of things continued until 1830, in which year the British superintendent of Belize made a descent on Roatan and seized it on behalf of the British crown. At

this time the States of Central America were united, and not to be outraged. They remonstrated, and the British government solemnly disavowed the act of their agent, and the islands were abandoned by the invaders. From this time until 1841 the islands appear to have remained in the occupation of Honduras, to which province they were politically attached; but again in that year, disregarding the facts of 1830, the superintendent of Belize, proceeding in the sloop-of-war Rover to Roatan, and meeting with no resistance from the small garrison stationed there, hauled down the flag of the republic and hoisted that of Great Britain in its stead. Thus, in the time of peace with Honduras, the island was again forcibly seized. The Central Republic had been dissolved since 1830, and the State of Honduras alone was too feeble to make effectual resistance, but protested energetically; yet its communications to the British government appear to have been unanswered. Subsequently, however, the actions of the superintendent were stated to have been in accordance with the orders of the home authorities, and *severe punishment* was threatened if the government of Honduras should thenceforward exercise or assume to exercise authority in Roatan. In the meanwhile a number of negroes from the Cayman Islands established themselves on the islands. For some time they appear to have been without any form of government, but with the increase of inhabitants they organized a kind of council and elected its members from among themselves. These islanders were British subjects, and hence there appeared some kind of pretext for Britain assuming the control and authority of the islands. Early in 1851, a plan having been matured, and the islanders having been properly instructed, they applied to the superintendent "to establish a regular form of government in the islands." How far this "*application*" was brought about by the English agents it is not necessary to inquire; but it is certain that in the following August Roatan, etc., were declared attached to the superintendency of Belize. It was not, however, until the next year that the affair was fully consummated by the proclamation quoted at the commencement of this history.

## GUAYANA.

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ASTRONOMICAL POSITION.—Between latitudes  $8^{\circ} 40'$  north and  $3^{\circ} 30'$  south, and longitudes  $50^{\circ} 22'$  and  $68^{\circ} 10'$  west from Greenwich, or  $8^{\circ} 52'$  and  $26^{\circ} 40'$  east from Washington.

BOUNDARIES.—*Northern*: the Orinoco River and Atlantic Ocean;—*eastern*: the Atlantic Ocean;—*southern*: the River Amazon and Rio Negro; and—*western*: the Orinoco River and the canal of Cassiquiare.

DIMENSIONS.—The greatest length, east and west, is about 1,200 miles, and the greatest breadth, north and south, about 850 miles. The area may be computed at 700,000 square miles.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS.—This vast territory, extending along the coast from the mouth of the Oronoco to the mouth of the Amazon, and extending inland as far as the natural canal of Cassiquiare, is divided into Brazilian and Venezuelan Guayana, and into colonial Guayana, the latter belonging to Great Britain, Holland, and France. The colonial division alone, however, is now recognized under this name, and so distinguished on the map—the other two being absorbed by their respective countries. The three colonies alluded to are maritime territories, lying contiguous to each other from west to east, in the order in which they are named.

PHYSICAL ASPECT.—The whole surface of the coast-lands is on a level with the sea, and hence, when brought into cultivation, have to be embanked and drained by sluices and dams. Shallows and muddy banks stretch along the whole line, and run several miles into the water. The level country extends from 10 to 40 miles inland, when it is arrested by sand hills. Behind these the highland stretches out in level or undulating plains, rising here and there into eminences. Notwithstanding the general flatness of the country toward the coast, the interior is traversed in various directions by chains of mountains, few of which, however are of any great height. The principal rivers of the country are the Amicuri, Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice, Corentyn, Surinam, Saracaima, Coppename, Maroni, Mana, Sinnamary, Oyak, and Oyapok, all flowing from south to north, and emptying into the Atlantic. The climate is moist, and on the coast extremely unhealthy. The soil is in general fertile, and vegetation singularly vigorous and luxuriant. Its

forest trees, which cover about one-half the surface, are of the most magnificent description. Fruit trees of various kinds abound—the pineapple, guava, etc., and among medicinal plants are noted ipecacuanha, gentian, and many others. Cultivation is chiefly limited to sugar, coffee, yams, cassava, plantains, bananas, maize, etc. In the forests, dye-woods, cochineal, gum copal, and a multitude of other valuable and unknown vegetable productions abound. The flora is rich and varied. The wild animals are those of tropical South America generally. The aborigines, consisting of the Arrowaks, Accawai, Carabisce, Warrows, Macusies, and Wapisianas, are still numerous, and in general live in a savage state.

#### BRITISH GUAYANA.

BRITISH GUAYANA extends along the coast from the Amieuri to the Corentyn, and consists of the three following districts :

Districts.	Area, sq. m.	Population 1850.			Chief Towns.
		Rural.	Urban.	Total.	
Essequibo .....	44,000	22,925	—	22,925	
Demerara .....	27,000	50,259	25,508	75,767	GEORGETOWN.
Berbice .....	25,000	24,370	4,633	29,003	New Amsterdam.
Total.....	96,000	97,554	30,141	127,695	

—of the total population 86,451 are natives of the country.

PRODUCTS, COMMERCE, ETC.—Sugar, rum, coffee, molasses, and hardwoods form the principal articles of export. In 1851 the value of exports was \$4,152,638, and that of imports \$4,106,011. A brisk trade in cattle from the Orinoco is also carried on. The foreign trade is chiefly with England and the United States.

GOVERNMENT, ETC.—British Guayana is administered by a governor appointed by the crown and a court of policy, consisting of ten members—five official and five non-official members. The expenditures of the colony in 1851 amounted to \$928,094, and the revenue produced \$974,409.

TOWNS.—*Georgetown*, the capital, at the mouth of Demerara River, is a Dutch-built town, and is intersected with canals. It has numerous public buildings, and its port, which has 17 feet anchorage, is well defended by Fort Frederic William. Population 25,508, of which four-fifths are negroes. *New Amsterdam*, at the mouth of Berbice River, extends for a mile and a half along its east bank. Like Georgetown, it is intersected by canals, and each residence is separated by a trench or ditch, filled and emptied by the tide. It has commodious wharfs and warehouses, and the entrance to the river is defended by three strong batteries. Small vessels only can enter the harbor. Population 4,633. These towns are chiefly engaged in commerce.

HISTORY.—Guayana was discovered by Vasco Nunez in 1504, and in 1558 the Dutch made their first settlement on the Pomeroon. It was subsequently, at several periods, seized upon by the British, and from 1803 that nation retained its present territory.

#### DUTCH GUAYANA, OR SURINAM.

DUTCH GUAYANA extends along the coast from the Corentyn to the Maroni, and contains 59,765 square miles.

POPULATION, ETC.—At the close of 1850 the colony contained 61,080 inhabitants, of whom 12,401 were Europeans and creoles, 8,000 bush negroes, 1,000 Indians, and 39,679 slaves. Of religious sects, the Moravians numbered 17,933 members. Schools 15—scholars about 1,200.

PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRY.—On 273 plantations, consisting of 366,548 acres, 48,815 were under cultivation. The staples produced in 1851 were sugar, rum, molasses, coffee, cocoa, and cotton, together valued at \$1,243,310. The live-stock consisted of—horses 168, mules 59, horned cattle 5,564, sheep 3,115, goats 454, and hogs 4,664. Surinam in 1851 was visited by 246 vessels; imports \$835,025, and exports \$1,150,841. The trade is chiefly with Holland. There is a line of mail steamers between Paramaribo and Demerara.

GOVERNMENT.—The colony is ruled by a governor, appointed by the crown, and a council, elected by the freeholders. Justice is administered by a supreme court, courts of minor jurisdiction, and a court of inheritance and orphans. The receipts into the treasury in 1850 amounted to \$436,072, and the disbursements to \$416,959. The slaves of this colony were emancipated in 1851, but remain as indentured apprentices for 12 years, and work without pay. The army consists of 610 men of all arms, and the navy of 11 vessels, chiefly small.

CHIEF TOWN.—*Paramaribo*, the capital, is situate on the right bank of the Surinam, about 10 miles from its mouth. A little north from the town is the fort of Zeelandia, where the governor resides, and where also most of the government establishments are situate. Paramaribo has a military and civil hospital, and a charitable society. *New Amsterdam* is the principal port. *Batavia*, *Orange*, and *Fredenburg* are on the coast, and *Wilhelmsburg*, *Magdenburg*, and *Jews' Town* in the interior.

HISTORY.—The first settlements were made by the Dutch in 1580, on the Pomeroon. The colony rapidly spread eastward over Demerara and Essequibo. In 1781, 1796, and 1803 it was taken by the British, and from the latter period only the present restricted territory has been held by the Dutch authorities.

## FRENCH GUAYANA, OR CAYENNE.

FRENCH GUAYANA occupies the most easterly portion of colonial Guayana, its coast-line extending from the Maroni to the Oyapok—a distance of 200 miles. The territory comprises the island of Cayenne, celebrated for the description of pepper having that name. Area 22,500 sq. miles. DIVISIONS, POPULATION, ETC.—The colony is divided into two districts—Cayenne and Sinnamary, and 14 communes. In 1851 the population amounted to 22,010, of which 14,997 were negroes.

PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRY.—In addition to the staples of the British and Dutch colonies, French Guiana produces pepper, cloves, cinnamon, and nutmegs. The annual value of imports and exports is between \$2,500,000 and \$3,000,000. Trade is chiefly with France and her colonies.

GOVERNMENT.—The government is vested in a governor, assisted by a privy council and colonial council of 16 members, elected by the colonists. The expenses of the government are about \$600,000 a year.

CHIEF TOWN.—*Cayenne*, on the island of the same name, is capital of the colony. The harbor is shallow, but otherwise good. It is protected by a fort and several batteries. The government house is in the old town, a miserable district; the new town has good streets, is well built, and has several storage warehouses. Population about 5,000. Sinnamary, Oyapok, etc., are comparatively small settlements on the mainland.

HISTORY.—The French first settled Cayenne in 1604. In 1763 the government sent out 12,000 emigrants, but these mostly perished. The British and Portuguese captured the colony in 1809, but restored it to France in 1814, with whom it still remains. Its population in 1851 was largely augmented by the transportation of political offenders.

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*New Orleans Commercial Bulletin*

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WM. M. EDDY, *State Surveyor General.*  
SAN FRANCISCO, March 31st, 1853.

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## INDEX TO CATALOGUE.

Alabama .....	Page 19	National Flags.....	Page 10
Africa (2 sizes).....	4	Nebraska and Kansas .....	13
America, Central .....	6, 10	New Brunswick .....	19, 20
America, North .....	2	New England .....	7, 13
America, North and South.....	2	New England Guide-Book.....	22
American Atlas.....	27	New England and New York .....	7
American School Geography..	29	Newfoundland .....	19, 29
America, South (2 sizes) .....	3	New Hampshire.....	7, 13, 17, 19
American Statistical Annual ..	25	New Jersey .....	19
American States (Stat. Acc. of) ..	21	New Mexico and Utah .....	19
Arkansas.....	6, 19	New Testament Map .....	12
Asia (2 sizes).....	3, 4	New York (State).....	6, 13, 17, 19
Atlas, American .....	27	New York (statistical).....	23
Atlas of the World.....	27	New York (city).....	7, 8, 10, 15
Book of the World.....	14	New York (33 miles around) ..	7
British Provinces.....	4, 6	New York (12 miles around) ..	20
Brooklyn.....	7, 8	North America .....	2
California .....	18, 19	North Carolina .....	19
Canada, East .....	19	Nova Scotia .....	19, 20
Canada, West .....	19	Ohio .....	17, 19
Central America .....	6, 10, 19	Oregon and Washington .....	19
Chronology (Haskell's) .....	14	Overland Guide (Horn) .....	23
Connecticut .....	7, 13, 17, 19	Palestine (2 sizes) .....	11
Delaware .....	19	Pennsylvania .....	19
Egypt, etc.....	11	Presidents, Portraits of .....	10
Europe (2 sizes) .....	3	Progress of the United States ..	31
European Battle Fields .....	18	Rhode Island .....	7, 13, 17, 19
Florida .....	19	South America (2 sizes) .....	3
Geography, Intermediate(book) ..	31	South Carolina .....	15, 19
Geographic Combination Maps ..	33	Southern States .....	22
Geography, Physical (book) ..	30	Stream of Time (Strauss) .....	10
Geography & History (Goodrich) ..	26	Tennessee .....	9, 19
Georgia .....	18, 19	Texas .....	19, 23
Human Life .....	11	United States, etc. (2 sizes) ..	4, 6
Illinois .....	8, 19	United States and Canada ..	5
Indiana (3 sizes) .....	8, 9	United States (case) .....	22
Indiana (book) .....	21	United States (outline) .....	16
Indiana .....	19	United States (Gazetteer) ..	24
Iowa .....	17, 19	United States' Guide-Book ..	12
Kentucky .....	9, 18, 19	United States (Progress of) ..	31
Lake Superior .....	19	United States' Route-Book ..	12
Long Island (2 sizes) .....	7	Utah .....	19
Louisiana .....	19	Vermont .....	7, 13, 17, 19
Maine .....	19, 22	Virginia .....	19
Maryland .....	19	West Indies .....	3, 4, 19
Massachusetts .....	7, 13, 17, 19	Western Portraiture .....	20
Mexico .....	4, 6, 19	Western States .....	9, 19
Michigan .....	9	Western Tourist .....	14
Michigan, North .....	19	Wisconsin .....	17, 19
Michigan, South .....	19	World (3 sizes) .....	1, 2
Minnesota .....	14, 19	World (missionary) .....	2
Mississippi .....	19	World (outline) .....	16
Missouri .....	17, 19	World, Book of the .....	14
Mountains and Rivers .....	10	World, Chronology of .....	14







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